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Libya criticises media reports

NICOSIA (R) — Libya Monday accused Western journalists of imprecise and biased reporting of a visit to the site of a factory which the United States says is a chemical weapons plant. The official JANA news agency complained that journalists reported seeing no evidence to back Libya's denial of the U.S. description of the facility which Tripoli says is a pharmaceutical factory. JANA also objected to journalists writing that there were military and other weapons at the site. "Saying that the buildings seen by the pressmen... don't help to recognise their nature (and) adding that there are weapons... is but a talk lacking in precision and objectivity," JANA quoted its local affairs commentator as saying. Foreign journalists taken Saturday to the site of the factory at Rabta, 96 kilometres southwest of Tripoli, were refused entry to the factory for security reasons. JANA said Libyans were gathering to stage a sit-in in the factory and that some of the buildings seen by journalists were used for assembling cars. It added that a town is being built at Rabta and suggested that Libya had a right to defend the factory following what it called U.S. threats to bomb it.

Howe asks Israel to 'test' PLO

WASHINGTON (AP) — British Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe Monday asked Israel to test the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and see if it is a "serious force for peace." "They (Israel) should be asked to test the PLO and see if they should be ready to see if there is any possibility of a peace process," Howe told a news conference. Howe said he had met with President Ali Abdullah Salih. His meeting with Salih, who is the North Yemeni president, was a meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who arrived here earlier in the day. Arafat, who is the PLO representative here, was quoted as saying in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation at the same time that Howe "has an important role to play in efforts to settle the Palestinian problem. Any pressure that Britain can bring on Israel will be a very important contribution." An official North Yemeni statement said that President Salih expressed satisfaction with the British stand on the Palestinian problem after his meeting with Howe.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Israel submitted peace plan to U.S.

ABU DHABI (AP) — Israel has submitted a six-point Mideast peace plan to Washington accepting United States and Soviet participation in a Middle East peace conference, the state-run Al Ittihad newspaper reported Monday. "The plan shows that Israel is ready to have the Arab-Israeli negotiations under the patronage of the United States and the Soviet Union," the paper said. Quoting unidentified Egyptian diplomatic sources, the paper said the Israeli plan was presented to U.S. President-elect George Bush, with a copy delivered to Egypt.

Arafat confers with N. Yemeni president

SANAA (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat discussed Palestinian peace initiatives with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salih Monday, Radio Sanaa said. The radio said Arafat, who arrived earlier in the day, discussed attempts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Saudi diplomat blames terrorists for killing

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia's charge d'affaires in Thailand, in remarks published Monday, blamed terrorists for the murder of a Saudi diplomat in Bangkok last Wednesday. Abdullah Al Shabily told Ashariq Al Ahsan newspaper by telephone from London that the crime was politically motivated and not linked to a dispute with local labour gangs. Bangkok police have not ruled out a political motive for the shooting of Third Secretary Saleh Al Malik. But they say they suspect Thai labour racketeers murdered Saleh, whose job included the processing of work permit applications.

Israel, China to step up contacts — Arens

PARIS (R) — Israel and China, which have never had diplomatic relations, have agreed to step up contacts through their United Nations delegations, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Monday. The decision was taken when Arens met Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Paris, where both are attending an international conference on banning chemical weapons. "The Chinese foreign minister suggested that we use the Chinese and Israeli delegations at the United Nations in New York as a channel of communications between the countries," Arens told a news conference.

Howe, Prince Philip to attend Hirohito funeral

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth's husband, Prince Philip, and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will represent Britain at Japanese Emperor Hirohito's funeral next month, Buckingham Palace and the government said Monday. Palace sources said the queen acted on the advice of her ministers in deciding who should represent the royal family at the Feb. 24 funeral (see story on page 5).

Cyprus peace talks enter second phase

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders met Monday for the second phase of United Nations-sponsored peace talks aimed at reunifying the island. President George Vassiliou, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Rauf Denktaş, president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic in northern Cyprus, conferred for one hour and 45 minutes. A brief U.N. statement said only that they agreed to meet again next Monday. It gave no details of Monday's discussions.

Armenian activist arrested in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (R) — One of the founding members of a banned group pressing for the reunification of the Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, with Armenia has been arrested, a senior Soviet legal official said. Viktor Ilyukhin told the Jan. 3 edition of the Azerbaijani Communist Party newspaper. Bakinski Rabochi that Igor Muradyan had been recently arrested in Azerbaijan. The newspaper reached Moscow Monday. Officials in Yerevan, capital of Armenia, announced Monday that four more Armenian activists had been detained for five days in connection with public order offences.

Pollisario: Talks should lead to settlement

TUNIS (R) — The Polisario Front said Monday its peace talks with King Hassan of Morocco last week should lead to a comprehensive agreement in the Western Sahara, where Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Morocco since 1976. A Polisario statement said its executive committee, at a meeting Sunday, concluded that the meeting "opens the way to a qualitative development of the U.N. and Organisation of African Unity process which must thus enter an active phase to reach a complete and definitive agreement." This would enable Morocco and the Polisario to go together to a referendum on self-determination for the people of the Western Sahara, the statement said.

Zaire unlikely to send Amin to Uganda

KAMPALA (R) — Zaire is unlikely to extradite former Ugandan leader Idi Amin to his homeland and wants him to return to Saudi Arabia, Zaire's ambassador to Uganda said Monday. Sources close to the Ugandan government said Sunday that a formal request for Amin's extradition from Zaire, which he entered illegally last week, will be presented soon by a special delegation. But the delegation, to be headed by the minister of state in the president's office, Kifwa Besigye, has not yet left Kampala.

Iran: 18 groups seek recognition

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday 18 political parties had so far applied for registration following a decision to expand political freedom. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi as saying the parties included the Association for the Defence of Freedom, to which former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan belongs. Others include the Mujahideen-e-Khalq movement led by Lottollah Meisami, who IRNA said was one of the first members of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq organisation which waged an armed struggle against the late Shah.

Holland opens dialogue with PLO

TUNIS (R) — The Netherlands Monday opened a formal dialogue in Tunis with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which said it hoped for a Dutch contribution to Middle East peace. "We expect Holland to play its role through the European community to achieve progress towards peace," PLO Political Department head Farouk Kaddoumi said after meeting Henry Wijnaendts, director of political affairs at the Dutch Foreign Ministry.

13 killed in Philippine grenade attack

MANILA (AP) — Assassins hurled a grenade into a crowd attending award ceremonies at a basketball tournament, killing at least 13 people and injuring 69 others in a remote area of the southern Philippines, the military said Monday. Lt. Anselmo Cabigano, a military spokesman, said the attack came at 11:30 p.m. Sunday at a basketball court in Esperanza, a town in Sultan Kudarat province, about 360 kilometres south of Manila. There was no indication who was responsible for the attack, Cabigano said.

Morocco, Syria restore relations

RABAT (Agencies) — Morocco and Syria have decided to restore diplomatic ties as a result of mediation by Saudi Arabia, a joint statement said Monday. The Moroccan/Syrian statement said the decision was taken "following the fraternal initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to eliminate obstacles hindering concerted Arab action to face up to dangers threatening the Arab Nation." The announcement was also broadcast on Damascus Radio. Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz left Damascus Saturday after two days of talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and flew to Rabat for talks with Moroccan leaders. Syria severed relations with Morocco in July 1986 in protest at a meeting between King Hassan and the then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Rifai holds talks with 2 American senators

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met with visiting U.S. senators Nancy Landon Kassebaum and John McCain and discussed with them international and Middle East developments. U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth was present at the meeting, held at the Prime Ministry, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Sen. Kassebaum is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee while Sen. McCain is member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Uprising leaders rule out truce

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Leaders of the Palestinian uprising vowed Monday to continue the anti-occupation revolt as it entered its 14th month with a general strike and clashes in which troops wounded 11 Palestinian protesters. In a leaflet distributed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, underground leaders condemned "weak voices being heard by some weak individuals... racing to participate in conspiracies aimed at stopping the uprising and heroic resistance to Zionist terror." Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, meanwhile, has renewed secret contacts with Palestinians to discuss convening municipal elections in the occupied territories for the first time since 1976, the daily Haaretz reported. The meeting at Rabin's Tel Aviv office were held in secret to protect participants from attacks by Palestinian nationalists, the Hebrew-language paper said. The PLO underground leadership of the uprising also rejected Israeli moves for elections and called for escalation of the revolt, speaking through the leaflet distributed in the occupied territories Monday. "Our heroic people, we are convinced that your struggle will defeat the terrorist (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir, who is trying to end the uprising by holding elections to try to find another leadership than our representative, the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)," said the leaflet. The army maintained curfews on four Gaza Strip refugee camps and the neighbourhoods of Gaza city and Rafah, confining 135,000 Palestinians to their homes. Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij last month proposed a one-year

King Hassan's talks with Peres, held in the monarch's mountain palace at Ifrane 20 kilometres east of Rabat, were inconclusive. The king described them as exploratory. Prince Abdullah's visit to Morocco was described as a private visit after holding two days of talks in Damascus. The Saudi news agency SPA said he had discussed in detail with the Syrians the question of readmitting Egypt to the Arab League as well as developments in Morocco, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya. Prince Abdullah told the agency his visit to Damascus was aimed at pursuing efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and he received full support from Assad on all issues discussed. Damascus Radio said "the prince stressed in his meeting with Assad the procedures needed to pave the way for a possible Arab summit in Riyadh."



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday confers with U.S. senators Nancy Landon Kassebaum and John McCain (Petra photo)

U.N.-sponsored truce in the uprising in exchange for Israeli moves, such as releasing detainees and holding municipal elections. He later withdrew the idea after PLO leader Yasser Arafat said in a statement that Palestinians who call for an end to the uprising risked the bullets of their people. In the West Bank, troops shot and wounded four Palestinians in a violent clash in Fara's village, the army said. Hospital officials said five others were shot and wounded in clashes in Qabatiya, Kufr Dik and Beit Ummar villages and Dheishel and Al Amari refugee camps. In the Gaza Strip, soldiers wounded two Palestinians during stone-throwing protests in Beit Lahia village and Rafah refugee camp. Clashes also broke out in Beit Hanoun and Gaza City, but there were no reported injuries. Palestinians heeded a strike call for the second day in a row and closed shops, halted transport and stayed away from their jobs, to mark the anniversary of the revolt. A small bomb exploded overnight near the Jewish settlement of Tekoa, causing no damage, an army spokesman said. Molotov cocktails were also thrown overnight in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Gilo, at the Givat Shimon Jewish settlement and at a settler's car in Hebron, the army and Palestinians said. The leaflet praised Palestinian lawyers for boycotting Israeli military courts and renewed calls for Palestinian employees of the Israeli occupation authorities to resign. It called general strikes Jan. 15 and Jan. 24 and declared Jan. 10 "a day to escalate the uprising."

Lebanese militia war turns 'horrific'

KFAR MELKI, Lebanon (Agencies) — Amal militia-militia war turned strategic villages in South Lebanon from their Hizbollah rivals Monday, and police reported "horrific atrocities" in the two-day battle. Police said at least 80 people were killed and 200 wounded as the embattled villages changed hands in house-to-house combat between the mainstream Amal militia and the fundamentalist Hizbollah, since daybreak Sunday. A police spokesman in Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, said there were "horrific atrocities" committed in the fighting. "They're knifing, hacking and gunning each other to death in Kfar Filla and Jbaa," he said. "Many victims have been hacked to death. Others had their throats cut and some were headless. Many were riddled with bullets," the spokesman said. Amal launched a counter-attack before dawn Monday and retook three of five villages which were seized by Hizbollah in a lightning onslaught the previous day in south Lebanon's Iqlim Al Tufah. Iranian sources said Mahmoud Rafsanjani, brother of the speaker of Iran's parliament, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, arrived in Beirut and held immediate talks with Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, vice-president of the Higher Shi'ite Council, in a bid to end the fighting. Rafsanjani also went to the house of Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, Hizbollah's spiritual mentor, in Beirut's southern suburbs.

43 killed in Boeing crash on busy British motorway

LOUGHBOROUGH, England (Agencies) — A Boeing jetliner skidded village rooftops and crashed near one of Britain's busiest motorways killing 43 people, but investigators said Monday they doubted sabotage brought down the plane. The new Boeing 737-400, with 118 passengers and eight crew on a flight from London to Belfast in Northern Ireland, crashed Sunday night near the village of Kegworth in central England in Britain's second major airline disaster in a month. But the airline, British Midland Airways, ruled out speculation by aviation experts that sabotage was to blame as was the case when a Pan American Boeing 747 crashed on the Scottish town of Lockerbie Dec. 21, killing 270 people. "We are satisfied the cause was technical," an airline spokesman said. The British Midland Boeing crashed on a grassy embankment alongside the main M1 north-south motorway as it tried to make an emergency landing at east Midlands Airport, 150 kilometres north of London. It was just about one kilometre short of the runway. Villagers who ran to the scene found corpses strewn on the roadway and some dazed passengers climbing out of the wreckage unaided. Rescuers struggled until near dawn Monday to free remaining survivors, some of whom were critically injured, from the wreck of the plane. Some of the survivors spoke of seeing flames and flashes gush from one of the engines during the 34-minute flight from London. Cars pulled to the side of the six-lane highway as the aircraft hurtled toward them, but there were no reports of injury to motorists. One engine was on fire, and Transport Secretary Paul Channon said it "certainly looks probable" there was a problem with the both engines. One of the engines was reported on fire as the plane came down. Officials of the Scandinavian



His Majesty King Hussein Monday holds talks with the governors of the Kingdom's governorates in a meeting attended by (to the King's right) Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's advisors Adnan Abu Odeh and Amer Khammash and Interior Minister Rajai Dajani (to the King's left)

King, governors review course of development

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday stressed the importance of developing public administration in the Kingdom's governorates in a way that is compatible with implementation of plans to decentralise development. The King was speaking at a meeting with the governors of Amman, Balqa, Zarqa, Irbid, Mafraq, Karak, Maan, and Tafleeh at the Royal Court. The meeting reviewed administrative and development affairs and the importance of increasing cooperation between the state organs and the governorates so as to facilitate implementation of development plans. The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. King Hussein's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, King Hussein's special advisor Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, and Interior Minister Rajai Dajani.

U.S. says it wants global chemical pact

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House Monday called on the Soviet Union's plan to start destroying chemical weapons only a partial answer to ending the menace posed by such arms. "We welcome the Soviet Union's commitment to begin the destruction of chemical weapons but it is only a partial destruction, we think a small part actually," spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters at his daily news briefing. Fitzwater, who was responding to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's announcement Sunday at an international conference in Paris, said: "The real answer is to destroy all chemical weapons." He said the United States had tabled a draft treaty at the Geneva disarmament conference four years ago which claims for a global ban on the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, retention and use of chemical weapons. "Our position is that the appropriate channel for a reduction in chemical weapons is through an agreement at the international disarmament conference in Geneva," Fitzwater said. While the statement by Shevardnadze was widely welcomed, concern was building at the Paris conference that efforts to reach a global ban on all future production of chemical weapons could stumble in the Middle East. One after the other, Arab foreign ministers said Sunday they could not be expected to renounce any weapon — including poison gas — so long as Israel possessed both chemical arms and the atomic bomb. American charges that the Libyans have built a poison gas plant have added urgency to the conference. Most African, Asian, Latin American and Arab countries walked out of the hall when Borha, the 43rd speaker to address the conference, went to the podium. Kenyan Foreign Minister Robert Ouko, who led the protest, said: "Africa deeply regrets the presence of the minority racist regime of South Africa." Ouko's spokesman later said South Africa had no place at a meeting to reduce tensions. Israel contented Monday it faced an immediate chemical weapons threat from Iraq, Syria and Libya and had taken steps to "defend" itself. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens made the charge at the 140-nation conference in Paris. Shortly after Arens made the speech, black African states led a walkout when South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha took the floor. The five-day conference began the process of drafting its final declaration Saturday. The final draft is expected to be ready by Tuesday night.

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PLO expects serious superpower push for peace

By Najwa Najjar Jordan Times Staff Reporter. AMMAN — The main question that remains in prospects for peace in the Middle East is whether the concessions made by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will lead to similar concessions by the other parties directly or indirectly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to a senior PLO official. However, Bassam Abu Sharif, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, also sees that a solution is in the offing and Israel is bound to give in sooner or later. Abu Sharif bases his conclusion on the new U.S.-Soviet detente, the European stand, the year-long intifada in the occupied territories and Arab solidarity. He considers all these factors to be part of "dialects," stressing that no one factor can be separated from the entire equation and or be expected to lead to a solution on its own. At the same time, Abu Sharif believes that the stands of the U.S. and Soviet Union towards the Middle East in the context of the prevailing superpower detente are of major significance in the Middle East peace process. "He points out that one of the main elements in the detente policy is the stress on the necessity of finding political solutions for hot regional problems, among which the Middle East conflict figures high. "Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union have agreed on several points concerning a peace process in the Middle East in the context of their commitment to the detente policy," said Abu Sharif in an interview with the Jordan Times. "The superpowers have agreed to join efforts to solve the Middle East problems, and both see to the necessity of an international conference as a way to solve the problems," Abu Sharif said. "They also agree that Israel's occupation of Arab territories should end." However, he also notes that there are areas which the superpowers have not agreed on, most importantly the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to an independent state. "The Soviet Union considers that a just solution cannot be attained unless the Palestinian people have their right to self-determination and an independent state, while the U.S. have not officially endorsed such a view," he said. The PLO is working to encourage the U.S. to develop its position and stand in the Middle East and to recognise the Palestinian right to self-determination and statehood, he said. But, the major obstacle to the peace process is "the rejectionist attitude of the Israeli government," according to Abu Sharif, who adds that the superpowers should cooperate closely in this area to formulate solutions under their commitment to global peace and stability. "We expect a serious effort to be made by both superpowers after President-elect George Bush takes office on Jan. 20," he said. "At the same time we have no illusion that these efforts will not take time to become fruitful." Abu Sharif sees the Soviet Union as being essential to any Middle East peace process since the new policy adopted by Moscow "is a policy of peaceful coexistence and of international cooperation to establish stability and peace that will create a healthy atmosphere for economic development in the world community." Naming one of the basic elements in attaining stability as political solutions to regional problems, he said: "The Soviet Union is committed to finding (regional) solutions, with the Middle East topping its agenda." The Soviet Union supports and defends not only the Palestinians' right to self-determination and statehood, but also strongly advocates internationally guaranteed secure and safe boundaries for all countries in the region. "Our relationship and cooperation with the Soviet Union are on the highest level and we have all reasons to believe that the Soviet Union will throw its weight for a just solution in the Middle East," he added. However, the U.S. will have carry the major part of the burden since Washington's official policy is to do all that it can to attain peace in the Middle East, he notes. "Then it becomes the U.S. responsibility to use its influence to remove the Israeli obstacle, as it is the only obstacle confronting peace in the Middle East." "We believe that it is the U.S. responsibility to help bring an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab land since it (the U.S.) has, beyond doubt, the ability to use its influence on the Israeli government to change (Israel's) attitude — the rejectionist, expansionist policy — and to respond positively to peace offers," Abu Sharif asserted.

(Continued on page 2)

Europarlament speaker due here Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The speaker of the European Parliament Sir Henry Plummer is due here Wednesday on a three day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of Jordanian government officials.

Sir Henry will discuss with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi the latest developments in the Palestine problem and current efforts to convene an international peace conference.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Sir Henry and his accompanying delegation from the European Parliament will arrive in Amman from the occupied Arab territories.

7 European MPs to arrive

Meanwhile another group of parliamentarians from seven European nations are due here Wednesday in the course of a Middle East region tour, for

meetings with Jordanian officials on the region's current issues and current efforts to attain peace.

The team, which will also go to Egypt, Syria and the occupied Arab territories, groups parliamentarians from Spain, West Germany, France, Portugal, Italy, Britain and Turkey.

The team members have been entrusted by the European Council, formed by the Commission of the European Communities, to carry out a study of the Middle East problems in the course of helping the Brussels based European Community to contribute to the peace efforts.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the team will meet with Palestine National Council Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and council members, to have a first-hand knowledge of the Palestine problem and recent developments.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LAWZI CONDOLES JAPANESE ENVOY: Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi called at the Japanese embassy Monday and offered his condolences and those of the Senate members on the death of Emperor Hirohito of Japan. The embassy was visited Sunday night by a representative of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on a similar mission. Michael Hamameh, director of the Crown Prince's office, conveyed condolences by the Crown Prince to the government and people of Japan and signed a condolences register at the embassy. (Petra)

KHAYYAT IN BAGHDAD: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat arrived in Baghdad Monday to participate in the second conference of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs which begins Tuesday. (Petra)

SERVICES FOR PILGRIMS: The Ma'an municipality is currently undertaking necessary arrangements to facilitate pilgrimage services during the pilgrims' trip to Mecca. The Ma'an mayor said a committee has been formed to give all necessary aid to pilgrims. (Petra)

KHATIB VISITS MA'AN: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Khatib Monday visited Ma'an Governorate and inspected Jordan Electricity Authority offices in Ma'an, Shobak, and Wadi Mousa in the wake of the snowfall in the region during late December. He also discussed with the director of the Ma'an Electricity Department and department officials the damages which the electric lines sustained. The minister has begun a tour covering all the southern governorates and districts. (Petra)

TURKISH AIDE VISITS KARAK: Visiting Deputy Director of Religious Affairs in Turkey Saifuddin Al Yaziji and his accompanying delegation visited the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad at Mu'ta and Mazar districts in Karak Monday. They were briefed by Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs officials on the historic background of the region. (Petra)

KUWAITI TEAM VISITS RJGC: A group of students from Kuwait, Monday called at the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) in Amman and were briefed on its work and programmes. The visitors, from the vocational and applied sciences college in Kuwait also toured the centre's divisions and inspected the various equipment used in making maps. (Petra)

EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTY: A number of Jordanian national products have been exempted from customs duty upon entering countries of the Arab League, according to Asem Hindawi, director of economic cooperation in the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Hindawi, who was speaking upon returning from a meeting at Tunis by the Arab Economic and Social Council, said that the council's decision enables products to enter other Arab states without restrictions. (Petra)

Ministry to ration artesian well water

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation will call a meeting for all owners of artesian wells in the coming week to discuss licences for allowing them to exploit underground water in accordance with a rationalised plan, Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakqhan said Monday.

He said that owners of wells will be allowed to pump out a fixed amount of water from the wells every year and they will be required to install metres on their wells to maintain control over the allowed quantity to be pumped by each.

The minister was speaking at a meeting attended by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ)

secretary general and senior ministry officials to discuss the application of a council of ministers resolution on allowing farmers in the Azraq region to benefit from water resources to irrigate state owned land which is being exploited by the local farmers.

The minister and the officials reviewed studies made on underground water resources in Disi, Sarhan and Hammam Basin — all in the semi desert regions of Jordan — and projects that will be carried out there with assistance from the British Ministry for Overseas Development.

The projects entail drilling wells of up to 25 metres deep to exploit the underground waters.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madamghah and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "New Museum Buildings in the Federal Republic of Germany" at the Yarmouk University — 11:00 a.m.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Kamal, Samar Al Sabe' and Nihal Saleh at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.

BAZAAR

- ★ A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroideries, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Ala'a Centre, Hittita Refugee Camp.

FILMS

- ★ A scientific film on the mechanism and functions of the brain (part 2) at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ A German film entitled "Die Moral der Ruth Halbfass" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin Monday receives a two-member International Labour Organisation team currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Israel seeks to uproot Arabs from their land, Dudin tells ILO team

AMMAN (Petra) — A two member team from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) had a meeting here Monday with Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin to discuss the situation in the Israeli occupied Arab territories and Israel's discriminatory measures against Arab workers under its rule.

Dudin told the team that Israel's actions against Arab workers had their adverse effects on Arab institutions and Arab workers livelihoods.

"Over the past two decades Israel has adopted an official policy designed to uproot the Palestinian people from their homeland, to destroy the Palestinian people's social and economic infrastructure and obliterate Arab culture," the minister said at the meeting.

The Israelis, he noted, pursue their repressive policies with the aim of evicting the Arabs and settling Jews in their place. Dudin briefed the team on Israel's violations of international laws, human rights and the ILO principles.

Dudin called on the ILO to intervene and put an end to Israel's aggressive measures against the Arab workers and its continued violations of human rights.

The two member team, which arrived in Amman Sunday evening, will be going to Syria, Tunisia, Egypt and the occupied Arab territories in the course of their present tour.

Abu Qoura cables support for Paris conference objectives

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Ahmad Abu Qoura Monday sent a cable to the chairman of the Paris international conference on chemical weapons expressing support for its objectives and hopes for its success.

Abu Qoura who is also president of the standing commission of the Red Cross and Red Cres-

cent Societies under the umbrella of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said that the commission hopes that the conference will adopt resolutions leading to the imposition of a total ban on the production and use of chemical weapons.

Jordan is represented at the Paris conference by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem who

said that chemical weapons threatened the Arab World.

Qasem said in a statement before he left Amman for the meeting in Paris, that the best way to stop the spread of chemical weapons in the Middle East was to pursue efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to turn the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war into a lasting peace.

Second Arab strategic conference discusses papers by Jordanian experts

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — Working papers by Jordanian specialists were reviewed by delegates to the second Arab Strategic conference here Monday.

One of the papers presented by Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani dealt with electronic industry in Jordan.

The paper, read out on Anani's behalf by Dr. Adnan Badran, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, referred to the future challenges for the Kingdom in the field of science.

The paper said that electronic industries in Jordan are very limited at present centering on the manufacture of electric lifts, but currently training is continuing to acquire a generation of skilled technicians and scientists working in various industrial fields.

Another paper was presented

by Dr. Hussein Omar Touqan from the University of Jordan's Strategic Studies Centre, dealing with the technological and educational status in the Arab World and Israel. The paper also covered Arab war industries and military and defence expenditure.

Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh, the university's vice-president, presented a working paper on the demographic dimension and its relation to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper called on the Arab World to work out a population strategy for the occupied Arab territories with a view to supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in their own homeland, and abhorring Zionist plans to evacuate Palestine from its indigenous population.

The paper also covered Israel's strategy of evicting Arab inhabitants and its on-going repressive

measures against the Arab population and its establishment of Jewish settlements, as well as expansionist policies in the Arab areas.

Israel, the paper said, is trying to make the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip a permanent market for its own industrial products. The paper also dealt with the on-going uprising and its objectives.

University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali, who is attending the conference, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that studies being reviewed at the meetings cover the Arab World's military, educational, economic, demographic and social conditions.

The first strategic conference, which was held in Amman last year, dealt with the Arab Order and the future challenges, Majali said. He voiced hope that the present conference will come up with recommendations and resolutions to help promote conditions in the Arab World.

COURSE FOR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS: New employees at the Customs Department in Amman Monday began attending a two-week training courses on the customs' administrative affairs and laws. (Petra)

Italian envoy visits Salt handicraft centre

SALT (J.T.) — Italy's ambassador to Jordan Francesco De Curten Monday visited a handicraft centre in Salt which was established by the Salt Development Corporation in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and financed by the Italian government.

The ambassador was briefed on the centre's three-year training courses for students and inspected its various sections.

The centre, is the first of its kind in the Kingdom and is designed to help promote traditional

handicrafts, encourage domestic tourism and find employment for local craftsmen.

Italy has provided JD 600,000 worth of equipment as a gift for the centre which joins the Salt Development Corporation.

The centre provides training to local women in weaving, ceramics and other traditional crafts and will also help market the products.

The centre which was recently opened is providing training to 15 instructors who will later offer training to students.

Suspected killer at Wihdat wedding arrested

AMMAN (J.T.) — The killer of a 21-year-old man, who was attending a wedding celebration on Jan. 5 at Al Wihdat district in Amman, has been apprehended by the police, according to a report in the local press Monday.

The killer identified only as H.R. SS fired his automatic rifle during the wedding from a point outside the house where the wedding was taking place with the intention of killing the bridegroom, but the bullets missed and hit Iyad Khaled Badawi, an innocent guest who was killed on the spot, according to the report quoting Public Security Department (PSD) officials.

The report said that the killer

aided by his own brother had planned to kill the bridegroom who they claimed had been responsible for the manslaughter of their own third brother last June. The two men responsible for the killing of Iyad were seized following strict and relentless investigations and enquiries, and they admitted to committing the crime, the report said.

The PSD officials said that the gun has been confiscated and the two men are being referred to court for trial.

Iyad Badawi, was described as a student in the Jordan Nursing School who was invited as a guest at the wedding ceremony when he was shot.

AACO team to discuss formation of company to finance aircraft purchase

AMMAN (J.T.) — A steering committee formed by the Arab Air Carriers' Organisation (AACO) meets here Tuesday to discuss the formation of a pan-Arab company that will take charge of financing the purchase and leasing of aircraft.

The committee which comprises chairmen of the boards of directors of Royal Jordanian (RJ), Kuwait Airways and the Moroccan Air Lines as well as the AACO's secretary general, will review a final report by a consultative commission that prepared a feasibility study on the project which is estimated to cost \$200 million.

has been proposed for the company which would buy more than 200 aircraft over the next 10 years and lease them back to Arab airlines.

In a statement at a press conference last month RJ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour called for coordination and integration among Arab airlines in the East Mediterranean region, in order to counter the prospective challenge of Europe's integrated carriers in 1992.

"The 1992 wind of change is already blowing and it is very challenging for the Arabs. Competition is tough," Ghandour said on the occasion of RJ's 25th anniversary.

Ghandour in fact echoed his own call on Arab airlines made back in April 1988 when he advocated the formation of a united Arab airline that can cater to the needs of all Arab countries' air transportation needs, and at the

same time deal with a real challenge represented in the merger of American and European airlines.

Ghandour told a similar AACO meeting then that Arab airlines have started adopting a unified set of specifications, which is considered as a first step leading towards a more comprehensive cooperation in air transport operations.

Following up on last month's press conference, it was later announced that contacts were underway between representatives of the national air carriers of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Kuwait to form an Arab federation for air transport.

Director of the Iraqi Airways Nouredin Safi Hammad said that representatives of the three airlines will meet later in January in Baghdad to discuss the proposed federation for which the four airlines will serve as a nucleus.

Once established, flights between the contracting countries will be considered as internal flights and as such, the flight rates will be lower than current flight rates.



Department of Meteorology Director Ali Abanda Monday briefs Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan on the operations of his department (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan inspects operations at meteorological department

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Monday called at the Department of Meteorology and was briefed on its operations by its director Ali Abanda.

The minister said that accurate information about the weather conditions was of paramount importance for citizens, farmers and organisations.

The minister was briefed by Abanda on the work of the National Meteorological Centre which will commence operations shortly, providing weather forecasts six days in advance.

Last month, the department announced the completion of a

building that would serve as a national centre, complete with electronic devices which have already been installed and routed to specialised weather channels that are linked to satellites.

Abanda said that the centre cost nearly JD 500,000 of which nearly JD 200,000 came in the form of equipment and machines

from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The WMO has also provided the centre with a radar system which can discover storms and clouds in any part of Jordan working within a 200-kilometre radius, and will send specialists to supervise the operations and train local staff.

Jordanian-W. German society marks 25th anniversary

HANOVER (J.T.) — The West German-Jordanian Friendship Society held a ceremony here recently to mark the society's 25th anniversary.

Jordan's ambassador to West Germany, Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, and a large number of prominent Arab and German figures attended the ceremony during which several speeches were delivered praising the bilateral relations and cooperation.

The society, which was established towards the end of 1963,

has been spearheading efforts to bolster bilateral relations, helping people from both countries to understand and know about the achievements of both nations in cultural, economic and industrial fields.

The society has over the past quarter century organised seminars and festivals to highlight cultural and economic achievements in both countries and organised visits by officials and public figures to Jordan and West Germany.



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No. 1F/89

JMPC announces the invitation to tender No. (1F/89) for the supply of laboratory general apparatus, and laboratory chemicals for Eshidiya phosphate mines. The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman supply department until 2.30 p.m. local time Wednesday 1.2.1989. Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD (30) for each set of tender documents. The closing date for submission tender is 12.00 hours local time Wednesday 8th February 1989.

WASEF AZAR
Managing Director

Jordan Times

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Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALI
Director General:
DR. RADI AL WAQFI
Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Fax: 661242

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Three cheers for the pioneer

BY DECLARING before the on-going Paris conference on chemical weapons that it has decided to scrap all its chemical weapons, the Soviet Union has earned for itself the envious status of being among the strongest supporters of real disarmament. Moscow has thus set new standards in disarmament and established fresh precedents for the elimination of mass destructive weapons. President Mikhail Gorbachev hands can be seen and felt in this historic decision in the annals of disarmament. In the final analysis the Soviet leader is becoming a true blessing to humanity and a breath of fresh air in international relations. By any standards, President Gorbachev deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for 1989.

Now it is up to the other countries of the world, which manufacture, possess and intend to use chemical weapons, to respond to the herculean Soviet challenge in a way that leaves no doubt that their participation at the Paris conference on the control and elimination of the threat of poison gases is more than ceremonial and political gambit. The Soviets in effect are calling the bluff of all the other nations of the world which profess pious concern about Libya's alleged manufacture of chemical weapons while they keep on hoarding their poison gases for possible use against their adversaries. Accordingly, unless the international community stands up to the Soviet challenge and accepts to reciprocate by surgically removing existing loopholes in the 1925 Geneva protocol against the first use of chemical weapons by outlawing the possession and production of chemical weapons as well, the quest for banning chemical weapons would be undermined.

Meanwhile, humanity can sigh with relief that a super-power has broken the cycle of circumventing the intent, and purposes of the 1925 Geneva protocol. From the bottom of our hearts, we solemnly say: Three cheers to the Soviet Union for the giant leap forward that it has taken along the path of actual elimination of mass destruction systems of weapons.

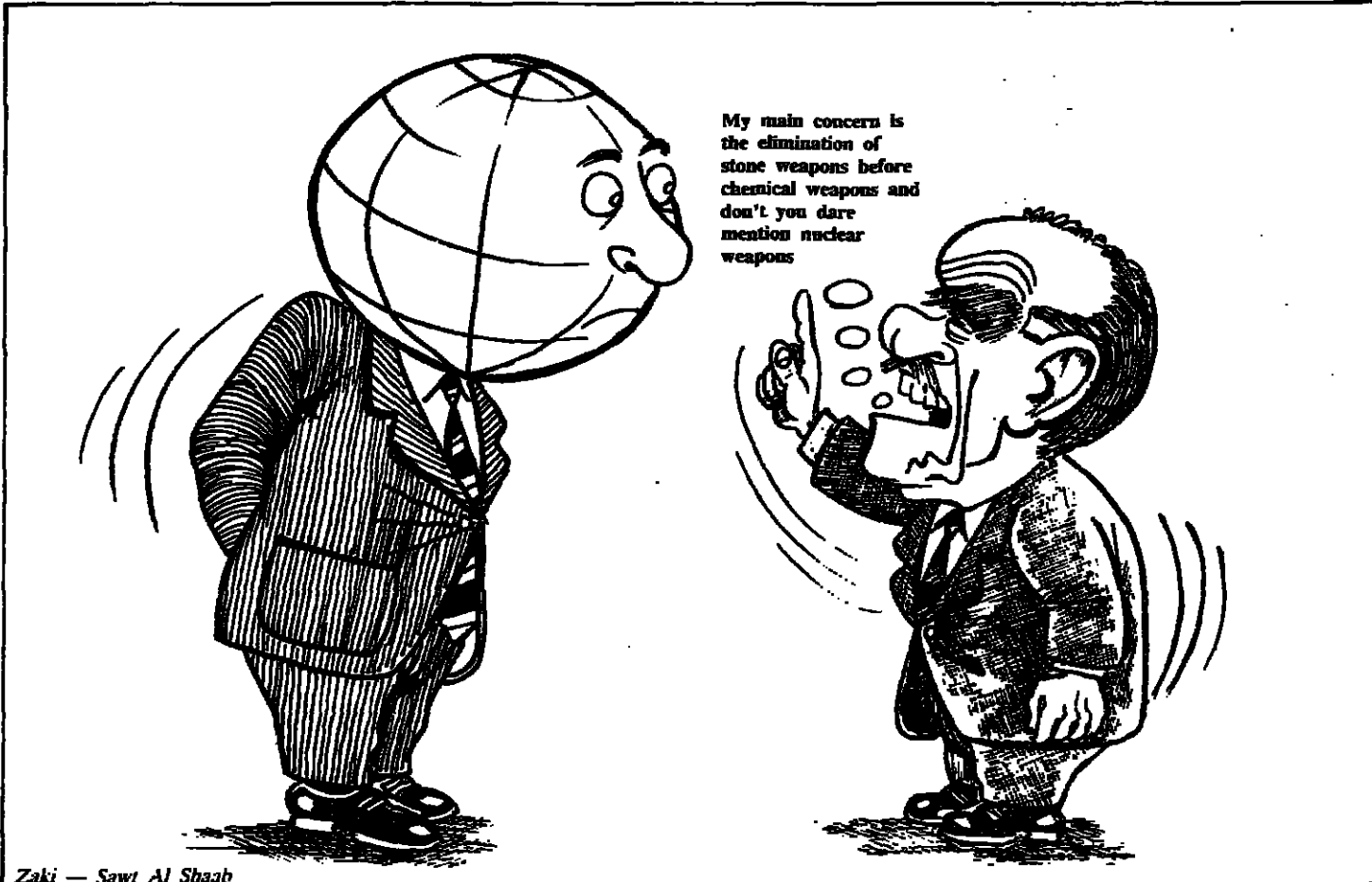
ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i newspaper Monday discussed the Jordanian-Palestinian relations which it said are based on mutual confidence and bolstered by the latest talks held in Amman. The Palestinian question indeed remains an issue for all Jordanians and it was quite natural that the King's talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat should be successful and fruitful, the paper noted. It said that the Jordanian leadership is quite aware of the dangers inherent in the Zionist conspiracies in Palestine and Israel's expansionist plans in the Arab region as a whole and for this leadership the problems of Palestine and Jerusalem have become central issues and the axis of Jordan's political stance. The paper said that the hoisting of the Palestinian flag over the Palestine embassy in Amman came as a crowning of the Jordanian-Palestinian fruitful march and close and progressive cooperation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily also comments on the very strong relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian leadership which he says are based to further bolster ties between the united people. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that it is true that the two sides had had their differences in the past but that was quite natural for any mutual relationship between two sides vying to offer the best services for their people. Even within the same community one can feel differences of views and disputes over a variety of topics relevant to national interest, the writer points out. He says that the crowning of the mutual endeavours with total agreement as emerged at the conclusion of the Amman meetings is a source of pride and delight for friends and can only be a source of anger for common enemies. The twin people of Jordan and Palestine, the writer adds, stand close together in one trench confronting all challenges and there is no doubt that Jordan will continue to serve as the strategic depth for Palestinians in their long march for freedom.

Al Dastour daily tackled the same topic describing the King-Arafat talks in Amman as representing a symbol of unity between the peoples of Palestine and Jordan, guided by the common national interest. The paper said that the decision to establish a Palestinian embassy in Amman was another step by Jordan to show sincere support for the PLO and its efforts to regain the rights of the Palestinian people and to enhance their identity. There is no doubt that the fast moving developments in the Palestine problem, especially the escalation in the uprising and the PLO's recognition of the U.N. Security Council resolutions were instrumental in cementing the mutual and successful cooperation, the paper noted. It said that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship now rests on very firm grounds, enhanced by mutual confidence and true solidarity.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's statements at the press conference Sunday in which he paid tribute to Jordan for its unwavering support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their rights. Arafat was particularly supportive of Jordan's decision last July to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, a step that paved the way for the PLO to shoulder its responsibility at the international level. The paper described continued Jordanian backing for the PLO as the most essential reason behind the PLO's successes and one that shows a true meaning of solidarity among brothers.



Zaki — Sawt Al Shaab

Soviet foreign aid shows new trends

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms have led to a perception in the USSR and Eastern Europe of an interdependent world — a contrast with the previous view of a world divided into two systems. It was as a result of this change that the Eastern Bloc signed the final act of UNCTAD VII which explicitly mentions the necessity of enhanced resource flows from the Socialist countries.

By Jurgen Bartsch

PARIS — According to the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates, Soviet aid has risen to almost double its share in world official development assistance (ODA) between 1980 and 1986, from 5 per cent to 9 per cent.

With \$4.2 billion of net ODA disbursements the USSR was the fourth largest donor in 1986. With the figure cited by the Soviet Union at UNCTAD VII in Geneva in July 1987 (15.1 billion roubles or \$2.14 billion at the official exchange rate), the USSR would be the largest aid donor.

Faced with the rising cost of aid, declining economic and political returns and competing domestic demands for financial resources, the Soviet Union recently has pushed for the implementation of reforms which had been initiated earlier years but had moved very slowly.

More efficiency is now demanded explicitly, both in the Soviet aid administration and in the recipient countries, in particular in the three developing countries that are members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) — Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

That was the theme of a conference of ministers and officials organised in Moscow in June 1987 by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. While promising the continuation of economic support, the conference placed considerable emphasis on new forms of joint ventures and direct production and scientific links. Criticism was also expressed about the Soviet aid administration.

During negotiations over the Soviet contribution to Cuba's 1986-90 five-year plan, the USSR insisted on giving priority to the completion of projects already under construction rather than undertaking new ones. It nevertheless promised new credits worth 50 per cent more than those of the period of the previous plan and granted a debt moratorium until 1990.

The new commitment amounts to 2.5 billion roubles, or \$3.5 billion at the official exchange rate, which corresponds to an annual \$70 per capita. While the USSR blames Cuba for slow and inefficient implementation of Soviet-supported projects, Cuban

officials attribute many of the country's current economic problems of the CMEA system of economic management and planning.

Mongolia was promised 50 per cent more in financial support for its 1986-90 five-year plan, i.e. over 3 billion roubles, which represents some \$440 per capita annually. Yet the USSR criticised Mongolia's poor economic performance and pressed for higher output and better quality of the goods produced at enterprises built with Soviet assistance, for better training of local managers and improved cooperation with Soviet experts.

The USSR has also pressed Vietnam to use the massive flows

of aid more efficiently and to improve its economic performance. Nevertheless, in late 1986 the USSR promised to double its contribution to the 1986-90 plan, to some 8 to 9 billion roubles (about \$2.2 to \$2.5 billion a year, equivalent to \$27-\$30 per capita).

Again, much emphasis was placed on speeding up USSR-aided projects, the importance of producing the largest possible returns and finding rapid solutions to the growing economic problems facing Vietnam. Joint enterprises and production-sharing arrangements, already favoured by the USSR and other CMEA donors during the previous five-year plan period, will be further extended.

The geographic distribution of Soviet aid, which is determined by considerations of foreign policy, the requirements of the Soviet economy and ideological affinity, has always been concentrated on Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam. During the 1980s these three countries obtained some three quarters of USSR bilateral net disbursements.

Most remaining Soviet aid is

directed towards countries which are politically and/or ideologically tied to the USSR: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kampuchea, North Korea, Laos, Mozambique, Nicaragua and South Yemen.

Most of these countries were promised significantly higher financial support up to 1990, but particular emphasis was laid on mutual benefit and adequate economic returns. Furthermore to contain the growing cost of assistance to some of the other priority countries, the USSR encouraged Angola and Mozambique to turn increasingly to Western donors.

Few resources were left for other countries, and aid to many traditional recipients, including Algeria, Iran and Turkey, declined significantly and in several instances became negative (when repayments exceeded new flows).

The only major exception is India which continues to enjoy a privileged relationship, receiving large new frame-credits (general agreements to offer support up to a given amount), both in 1985 and 1986, at particularly favourable terms. Apart from aid for

specific projects, cooperation between the two countries increasingly takes the form of joint enterprises, cooperation with third parties, and the subcontracting to India of parts of projects in other countries which receive Soviet aid.

Economic cooperation with Sub-Saharan Africa still appears to pose major problems for the USSR and the other CMEA countries. For example, the five Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa — Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe — stated at a ministerial meeting in 1987 that the Socialist countries did not understand local realities and that the concept of economic cooperation between the two groups of countries had proved inadequate.

Criticism has also been voiced in Nigeria about the political nature of aid from the Soviet Union and the importance of a change in the nature of its aid for Africa. In its aid relations with sub-Saharan countries the Soviet Union is hampered by its inability to en-

gage in grass-root projects, a difficulty at least partly related to the absence of non-governmental aid organisations in the Soviet Union.

In an effort to rationalise its administration of aid, the Soviet government undertook to reorganise the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations (GKES) and the foreign trade organisations in charge of the implementation of the Soviet aid programme early in 1987. GKES was made responsible for the commissioning of Soviet-built enterprises and for ensuring their efficient operation.

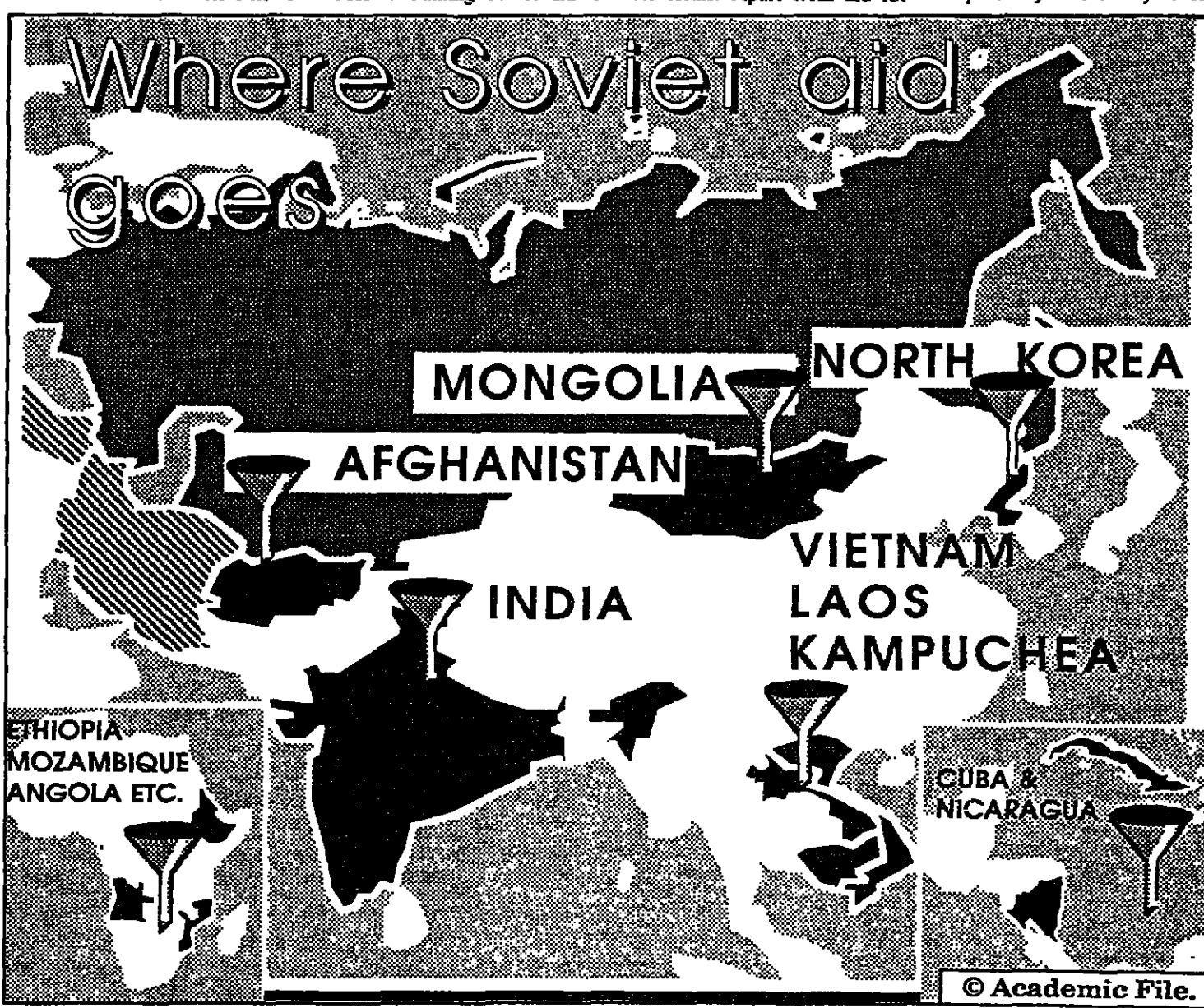
In conjunction with a newly created State Foreign Economic Commission, the GKES had been invited to "submit to the council of ministers proposals to improve the organisation of building Soviet-assisted projects abroad." In January 1988 the GKES was merged with the Foreign Trade Ministry into a new Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, a re-organisation expected to improve the Soviet aid administration.

The USSR is increasingly delivering completed projects on a "turnkey" basis, for which it also assumes the initial responsibility for their effective management. Soviet planning experts, aware that large state farms and irrigation projects do not always suit the requirements of the poorest developing countries, advised Ethiopia to strengthen the private sector and offer material incentives to private farmers. A similar move has been reported for Afghanistan and Guinea.

In order to integrate economic relations with developing countries more closely into the planning process of the Soviet economy, increasing emphasis is being laid on the development of long-term programmes for bilateral cooperation in the economic, scientific, technological and trade spheres. At present such long-term programmes have been concluded with 11 developing countries.

Some new developments have occurred in multilateral fora, demonstrating the USSR's desire to participate more closely in world trade and economic relations: in April 1987, for the first time, the Soviet Union sent an observer to the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank, and in July signed the agreement to the UNCTAD Common Fund for Commodities, in which it holds a 5.8 per cent share.

It has, moreover, discharged some outstanding international debts — and has even applied to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In particular, the USSR is paying growing attention to United Nations institutions in which it aims at a higher profile — Academic File.



© Academic File.

Vietnamese pullout offer seen as Kampuchean breakthrough

By Joseph De Rienzo
Reuters

BANGKOK — Foreign parties to the Kampuchean conflict appear close to diplomatic settlement but the fight for who will rule the Indochinese state is still far from over, diplomats have said.

Several envoys in Bangkok described as significant an offer by Hanoi to bring home Vietnamese forces by September as part of a settlement that would also end foreign support for Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrillas.

"I'm convinced Peking and Moscow and the other (outside) players have decided to settle, and in a few months could walk away and leave it to the Kampuchians to make peace or slug it

out," said one Western diplomat. China funnels aid to Khmer Rouge guerrillas through Thailand, where the guerrillas take sanctuary and recruit fighters from refugee camps. Western diplomats say.

Kampuchean and Vietnamese leaders announced their offer last Friday at 10th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Kampuchean government after a Vietnamese invasion.

The diplomats said the proposal probably resulted from talks on Kampuchea between the Chinese and Soviet foreign ministers in Moscow in December. Both Peking and Moscow welcomed the initiative. Moscow, which supports Viet-

nam and Kampuchea, said it opened "the possibility of eliminating the seat of regional tension this year.... Such a chance must not be lost."

The Hanoi-Phnom Penh initiative calls for a pullout of Vietnamese troops by September, a ceasefire and an end to foreign military aid and sanctuary for the three-faction guerrilla alliance, all under international supervision.

Diplomats said the new momentum towards Kampuchean peace could affect the chances of Prince Norodom Sihanouk being included in any settlement.

Sihanouk ruled under various titles for three decades until toppled by a military coup in 1970 and has been championed by

Western and many Asian states as someone who could unite the warring factions.

There was no indication Sihanouk had any part in the latest initiative. He said last week the deadlock "could only be broken on the battlefield" and has called for the Phnom Penh government's dissolution.

Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen said recently that a solution of the conflict's international aspects could go ahead without the guerrillas. He called on Indonesia to hold a peace conference of South East Asian nations as scheduled in February despite a guerrilla boycott threat.

Diplomats said many hurdles stand in the way of international agreement but that they could be cleared. A key element would be talks

between China and Vietnam, which Hanoi has been seeking. Peking recently made a big concession by offering to stop supplies to the Khmer Rouge if Hanoi set a withdrawal schedule.

A Thai spokesman called the pullout proposal a positive development. Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila was due to visit Hanoi Monday to discuss Kampuchea.

Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan said after taking office in August he wanted to change Indochina from a battlefield to a marketplace. He has also invited Hun Sen to Thailand.

The United States, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand have sustained the weak non-Communist guerrilla factions of Sihanouk and Son Sann as a counter to Kam-

puchean and Vietnamese soldiers as well as the Communist Khmer Rouge.

Virtually the entire Khmer Rouge leadership under Pol Pot fled Hanoi's 1978 invasion to sanctuary on the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Diplomats expect the secretive movement, blamed by Western governments for at least one million deaths when it ruled from 1975-78, to fight on with or without foreign aid.

Phnom Penh has said it will not accept an international peacekeeping force, calling instead for an international control commission armed only for its own protection. Vietnam and Phnom Penh say Hanoi's troops will leave by the end of 1990 with or without a settlement.



Scene from Robert Wilson's latest stage spectacle "The Forest", based on motifs from the Epic of Gilgamesh. (Photo: INP/Gerhard Kassner)

Theatre of pictures

When one of American-born Robert Wilson's plays was performed in Hamburg a good ten years ago, theatre people and audiences were utterly bewildered. What was happening on stage, plus the exhortation to leave the auditorium and come back later — since the audience wouldn't miss anything anyway — contradicted all visual habits and even the most extreme of theatrical experiences. Even the genre designation "opera" had a provocative quality. When all was said and done, "Einstein on the beach" defied any form of categorisation.

Be that as it may, Robert Wilson's production generated fascination. Theatre as a "pure form", unintentionally self-sufficient, was known at best on the German stage as "ballet blanc". Wilson, for his part, saw ideal opportunities in the Federal Republic of Germany to stage his theatrical dreams. An increasingly intensive bond developed and proved extremely fruitful.

Robert Wilson was born in Texas in 1941. By profession he is an architect and designer — as well as a painter, performer, director, actor and lots more; an artistic man of many talents who, with the utmost precision, forces elements esthetically together to form weightless, enigmatic pictures of magical beauty. But he doesn't only show them in his own plays. For some time now he has been subjecting the texts of other authors and even classical opera to his pictorial imagination.

Berlin's "Schaubühne", on Lehniner Platz, was the first theatre to engage him as a producer — which came as something of a surprise to the theatre's regular audiences. Up to that time, the Schaubühne had been

regarded as a moral institution with socio-critical, indeed, political intentions — and its own scenic language.

Wilson's biggest project "Civil wars" was to be performed all day as part of the cultural programme for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Parts of the performance were to be shown in Amsterdam, Cologne, Rome and Tokyo. The project failed to materialise, however, because of a lack of financial support. The German part, though, was triumphant success. There was a sort of message behind the magnificent pictures, a fear of man's self-destruction. The Cologne performance made Wilson the guru of the theatre in the Federal Republic of Germany, a much sought-after producer.

Obviously Wilson had realised that his "L'art pour l'art" esthetics, with no fixed purpose in mind, had something optional about it, and he sought association with the GDR dramatist Heiner Müller for "Civil wars". Finally, to everyone's astonishment, he even began to produce plays by this author: first "Hamletmaschine" in New York and Hamburg in 1986, then "Quartett" in Stuttgart in 1987. It seemed as if he wanted to put his work in stages by cooperating with a representative of the most extreme opposite position to his own concept of theatre.

The fusion of two hermetic styles of theatre prompted a fear of an intensification of the enigmatic. This why it was all the more surprising when the opposite happened. In "Hamletmaschine", a radical concentration of the Shakespearean play and its reception in Germany, couched in bitter criticism of the develop-

ment of "existing socialism in real terms", Wilson ritualised the course of events in his own movement-canon. He completely foregoes telling a story and interpreting the text in just the same way as Heiner Müller would. Fourteen young men in casual or elegant dress take up highly stylised positions on the stage to a clicking sound, one after the other: they sit, stand or strike poses. When the last actor has taken his place, the scene is modified: the stage turns 45 degrees. The same ceremony begins again, exactly the same. One involuntarily compares it with Pina Bauscha's dance theatre in Wuppertal. But Wilson keeps a keen eye on the tolerability of his ideas and the time taken by the scenes.

Before patience becomes exhausted, he inserts the text. The latter is likewise deformed, broken up and intensified. The ritual of the actions determines the structure. When this is finished, the stage revolves 45 degrees once more. The sequence of movements starts anew whilst the text continues. Finally, the stage shows the same picture as at the beginning, and a white curtain screens them hermetically — like a fourth wall: the play and performance do not wish to surrender themselves. It has the structure of a musical composition, a variation movement, which suggestively draws one into its spell and even stops the need for "understanding" at verbal level. Wilson succeeds in deciphering Müller's obsessive vision by recoding it in his own visual language. Just as he apparently causes the play to rotate on its own axis, he shows it from all sides without robbing it of its secret.

A year later, in Hamburg once

more, Wilson, together with Tankred Dorst, produced a version of Parzival material in dazzlingly beautiful scenes, with also no speech. Finally, on Rolf Liebermann's retirement from directorship of the Hamburg State Opera, Wilson produced a homage to Bessie Smith with jazz orchestra and symphonic music by Liebermann — as a mixture of dance theatre and musical revue.

Then, in October in Berlin, Wilson produced his own play "The Forest", based on the Epic of Gilgamesh. This lavishly produced spectacle is going on extensive tour of the Lander after Berlin. Benjamin Heinrichs, critic on the weekly "Die Zeit", sees in it "something resembling a double portrait of Robert Wilson and Robert Wilson's theatre. He is Gilgamesh: the boldest factory owner of contemporary theatre. His products are the most venturesome (and most expensive), his machines are the most modern and the best, his buildings the highest, his ruins the saddest. No-one has achieved anything so unbelievable, no-one has seen so many hopes dashed. But Wilson is also Enkidu: the naive little innocent, the dumb, awkward dreamer with a child's building bricks. Wilson's theatre combines the state-of-the-art in theatre technology with the simplicity of age-old folktales; it disseminates the cold of outer space and the heat of the jungle simultaneously. — (IN-Press).

Werner Schulze-Reimpell

The art of Ali Omar Ermes

The Libyan artist, Ali Omar Ermes, reflects the lyrical qualities of the Arab way of life in compositions evocative of the tensions of the modern age. It's a fusion of unusual energy.

By Mary Patrick

LONDON — The tensions and lyricism of an ordinary Arab way of life are reflected in the calligraphic landscapes of the Libyan artist, Ali Omar Ermes. Amid hues of brown, fawn and ochre, the viewer is treated to subtle leaps of turquoise and lapislazuli blue, which seem to convey the essence of Islamic interiors.

The intermingling of the browns and the blues is only a prelude, however, to the viewer's experience, for in the foreground of most of Ermes's multimedia presentations there are large, dramatic and well-hewn letters from the Arabic alphabet — chosen to denote different moods and meanings.

The bold central letters are interlaced with poetic inscriptions, neatly controlled yet flowing, sometimes in stark contrast with the softness of the background and sometimes blending in, with the round shapes and curves of the letters weaving into the patterns of the overall picture.

Ermes was born in Libya in 1945 to Arab parents. He studied in England, and the Western influence can be seen in his abstract works of art. He has also worked as a photographer, which lends a certain discipline to his work. As a painter, however, he draws heavily on his imagination to create extraordinary images of calligraphic landscapes. In his quest for creativity, he says, "the main object is the form of the letter itself." Arabic calligraphy therefore is central to his work.

His latest exhibition, held at

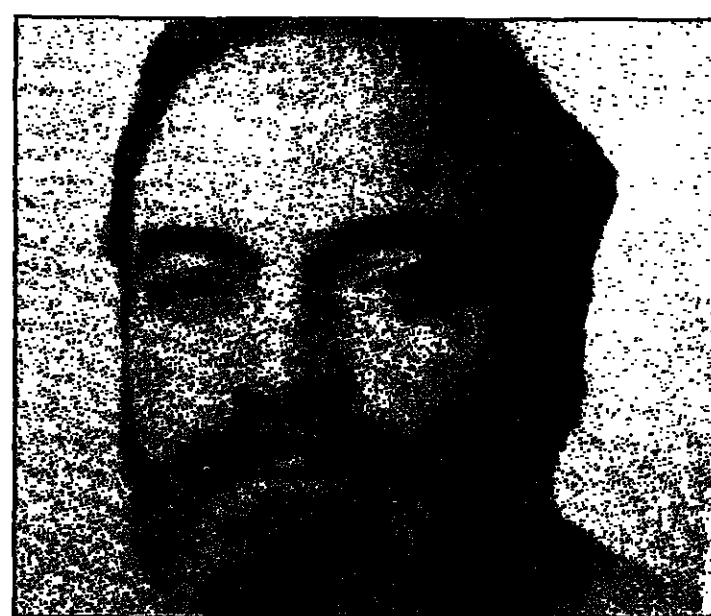
the Kufa Gallery in London, conveyed that message. Ermes paints on large pieces of paper, using a wide range of paints and coloured inks and gold powders. His work, he says, stems from ancient traditions of Arabic calligraphy, and uses many of the classic calligraphic styles.

Most of his pictures contain a central letter, which stands out of the background of the picture as a dramatic abstract form. The effect is often three-dimensional and visually stunning. The letters often appear to be detached from the background, suspended in space as a planet or star. In the smaller pictures, the writings seem more involved with the overall design, helping to form the pattern rather than contrasting with it.

He uses gold to highlight or add substance to the central design. The backgrounds are a blend of soft tones, with different shades of blues, pinks or greys, or all the shades of brown, from soft sand to warm tones of wood, or soft sage green and the colours of autumn, speckled with gold. The gold is used sparingly, however, to gently lighten the pastel tones of the background and giving a sense of unity to the picture.

Other works of Ali Omar Ermes evoke warmth, exuded by soft shades of brown which are far from dull and in fact render each image attractive and pleasing. In one picture, the bold brushstrokes of the central design swirl round and curl with energy, as it appears to re-create itself, generating an aura of energy.

In other paintings, the artist's



Ali Omar Ermes

use of the varying shades and backgrounds gives the impression that the central image is becoming detached, creating a tension, as though the forces of energy were struggling for control of the picture itself.

This could be a reflection of the tensions in the artist himself, the interplay between his Arab North African roots, strong religious and literary background and love of calligraphy (traditionally an art related to the Koran) and his modern self, nurtured on European abstract traditions and their vocabulary of colour, shape and design — not to mention his photographic skills.

The calligraphic writing in Ali Omar's pictures has either literary or spiritual significance. Looking at his pictures, we can see that. He says he thinks of his work not as painting, but as literature. It's not surprising,

then, to discover that his pictures are often bought for the poetry they contain.

In his pictures he uses writings from Majalis Taleb, as in the pictures entitled "The Letter Noon", "The Letter Tah" and "The Letter Hah". Ali Omar quotes verses by Antar Bin Shaddad, from the pre-Islamic period, which are beautiful poems about Art and War. In "The Letter Tah", he uses writings by Al Aqed Al Farid, on literary criticism.

In "The Letter Hah" the writing is highlighted with gold and tinged with a bright red, adding strength to the letters, which sweep across the canvas in fluid swirls, while the background is balanced by a subtle blend of different hues of brown, gold and blue. But for the calligraphic overlay the effect is evocative of contemporary works of modern art — Academic File.



A calligraphic composition by Ali Omar Ermes.

The occult — a serious business

By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Whether they come in the form of occult goods aimed at the teen-age market or as amulets sold at mainstream shrines and temples, lucky charms are a staple of Japanese life — and a profitable business. Each year tens of millions of Japanese adults flock to Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples to buy charms thought to bring luck or ward off nearly any kind of calamity imaginable.

During the three-day New Year's holiday alone, priests at the Tsurugaoka Hachiman shrine in Kamakura, southwest of Tokyo, expect to sell 300,000 lucky arrows, according to Atsushi Takahashi, a shrine spokesman. The arrow is believed to help its bearer take aim and get what he wants.

"The New Year's holidays are our busiest season, and we expect nearly 2 million people to visit," Takahashi said.

If all the lucky arrows are sold at \$6 and 16 each, the Shinto shrine will take in more than \$2 million. And arrows are just one of nearly a dozen charms sold at the shrine.

Money made from sales of amulets is considered a contribution, and the shrines and temples pay no tax on the income.

"Sales of charms are what keep many shrines in the black," said a priestess at another Kamakura shrine. "But sometimes I wonder whether people who buy the amulets aren't missing the real point, which is faith in the divine," she said, requesting anonymity.

Tourist maps are sold at the Kamakura train station which show the location of major temples and list the divine favours each one offers — including busi-

ness prosperity, improved eyesight and even the prevention of cancer. Most of the charms are colourful, pocket-sized pouches which contain a talisman or drawing of a deity.

"The popularity of amulets may be due to the abundance of money in Japan and people's desire for material things," said S. Aoki, the business director of Kiyomizu-Dera, a major Buddhist temple in Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital.

"But we don't consider that as necessarily bad," he said. "The point is that if they didn't have any faith at all, they wouldn't come here in the first place."

Kazushi Sano of the Association of Shinto Shrines, which supervises 80,000 shrines in Japan, said there are no written rules regarding amulets. But he said his organisation discourages their sale in department stores or other commercial outlets.

"That would be rude to the gods," Sano said. "It's hard to judge whether the amulets are effective," he said, "because they involve divine powers that people can't always understand."

Weddings and funerals

The charms can be traced back for centuries, holding an integral part in Japanese religious faith.

Most Japanese at times worship in both Shinto and Buddhist settings, often holding weddings at Shinto Shrines and funerals at Buddhist temples. Having charms from both faiths at one's home is common.

But a recent increase in sales of occult amulets to junior and senior high school girls has raised eyebrows in the mass media.

"We've been flooded by reporters in the past year," said Kazuo Arai, an employee of Tokyo's

"Little Witch House"

Though not affiliated with either the Buddhist or Shinto faith, the shop draws a steady flow of schoolgirls with nearly 200 kinds of charms supposed to improve one's popularity or love life.

The "Little Witch House" itself is small, but is run by a company which publishes "My Birthday," a monthly teen magazine with a circulation of roughly 400,000 nationwide. Much of the magazine is devoted to explanations of fortune-telling, charms and incantations, Arai said.

"The girls come here seeking help with problems they face in their day-to-day lives," he said. "They're young, inexperienced and look to the charms to help them in situations they don't know how to handle."

"What the girls are doing is basically the same as what adults do when they buy charms at shrines," Arai said, adding that they may be imitating their parents, who can often be found at shrines during the examination season buying amulets said to help students pass.

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Faten Hamameh in **Bitter Day... Sweet Day** (Arabic)

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Reagan proposes \$1.15 trillion 1990 budget

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Monday proposed a \$1.15 trillion fiscal 1990 budget for the United States that would increase spending for defence and some domestic programmes while reducing the deficit without raising taxes.

The proposal provides for government revenues of \$1.06 trillion which would bring the deficit to \$92.5 billion. That compares with a deficit of \$161.6 billion during the current fiscal year which ends Sept. 30 and a \$100 billion deficit limit for fiscal 1990 set by law.

Reagan submitted his budget plan just 11 days before he hands the reins of power over to President-elect Bush. Reagan's budget plan already has been dismissed by congressional Democrats who said they want to see Bush's proposals.

Bush has said he will not propose dramatic changes to Reagan's budget after he takes the oath of office Jan. 20 but will modify it with his own priorities.

Bush pledged throughout his presidential campaign to cut the huge U.S. federal budget deficit without raising taxes but even some of his Republican backers have expressed doubts that he can do it.

The Reagan plan in many ways reflects the priorities outlined by Bush in his campaign. The budget plan leaves social security untouched and provides for increases in AIDS research and prevention and drug enforcement and reduces the deficit without new taxes.

In a radio interview Monday, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that Bush's

nominee for Office of Management and Budget Director Richard Darman was consulted during the drafting of the budget plan and Bush's team made no changes.

Bush also promised to increase spending for education programmes. The Reagan budget plan provides for a \$200 million increase in education spending, but would do away with 25 Department of Education programmes.

The Reagan budget proposes eliminating a total of 80 federal programmes.

The Reagan plan provides for an increase in defence spending of two per cent above the inflation rate. Reagan proposed a total \$315.2 billion defence budget, which includes current year spending and obligations for future spending.

Congress approved a \$298.8 billion defence budget in the current fiscal 1989 year.

The Reagan budget assumes that the current economic expansion, now in its 74th month, will continue. The budget assumes that the gross national product (GNP), the total of goods and services produced in the United States, will grow by 3.5 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1988 to the fourth quarter of 1989 and by 3.4 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the end of 1990.

Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, was forecast to rise by 3.6 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1988 to the end of 1989 and by 3.5 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the end of 1990.

Reagan's deficit numbers rely in large part on continued economic expansion.

If the GNP is one percentage point lower in fiscal 1990, then government tax receipts would drop by \$6.7 billion and spending would be \$1.9 billion higher, the budget document said.

If the lower growth continued, the deficit would be \$83 billion higher than originally projected for 1994, the budget document said.

If Congress enacts all of Reagan's budget proposals, an outcome that is highly unlikely, the federal budget would enjoy a

\$2.4 billion surplus in fiscal 1993, the document said.

Reagan proposed an 18 per cent reduction in agriculture spending, a proposal that already has been criticised by farm groups.

The outgoing president also proposed spending \$64 billion through 1994 for bailing out failing savings and loan institutions.

That includes \$16 billion for the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp (FSLIC) in the current fiscal 1989 and \$9 billion in fiscal 1990, the budget document said.

The president, in his message to Congress, said the secretary of treasury will soon submit a detailed plan on the savings and loan bailout to Bush.

The budget also provides for \$18 billion to be spent for nuclear weapons facilities cleanup and modernisation through 1994.

The president also said additional money was needed for international affairs to promote U.S. foreign policy and national security interests particularly in the Middle East and Central America.

The budget also proposes a special programme to foster strong economic growth in the Philippines.

The Reagan plan also includes \$6.1 billion from sales of government loans and other assets. The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law does not allow these assets sales to be counted toward meeting the deficit reduction target of \$100 billion.

Excluding the proposed assets sales the fiscal 1990 deficit would be \$98.6 billion.

Reagan said that as part of his efforts to return government enterprises to private hands he is

proposing the sale of the Naval Petroleum Reserves, the Alaska Power Administration and the Southeastern Power Administration.

Reagan also included in his fiscal 1990 budget plan changes to the budget process some of which already have been rejected by Congress.

Those include an amendment to the constitution that would require a balanced federal budget and a law that would give the president the power to reject individual items in appropriations bills.

He also asked that Congress adopt a biennial budget process, an idea that is gaining some support in Congress. Currently, the administration proposes and Congress enacts spending bills for the various government programmes each year.

Dollar rally continues

LONDON (R) — The dollar hit its highest level for nearly three months against the Deutschmark Monday as investors risked central bank intervention and bought the American currency on hopes of higher U.S. interest rates.

Key European bourses firmed after Tokyo shares soared to record highs despite the death of Emperor Hirohito Saturday. The yen was steady, contrary to expectations that it would fall along with Japanese stocks after the emperor, who was 87 and had been bedridden since September, died.

Gold was fixed in London at a 2½ month low of \$404.45 an ounce Monday. The flight from precious metals to dollars had started in the United States Friday.

The dollar broke through 1.83 marks in Europe Monday morning, sharply higher than 1.8125 marks at the close Friday. Its highest level against the yen was 126.75 compared with 126.60 at Friday's finish.

The U.S. currency was fixed in Frankfurt at 1.8308 and the West German Bundesbank sold \$49.2 million at the fixing. In Tokyo, Mitsubishi Bank Ltd said its new market-oriented short-term prime rate would be set at 4.25 per cent from Jan. 23. The current prime is 3.375 per cent, but the rise was below market expectations, dealers said.

A new year dollar rally was boosted Friday by better than expected U.S. employment data for December from Washington. That indicated U.S. economic strength and left intact the possibility of higher interest rates.

Tensions between Libya and the United States and a statement by Bundesbank Vice-President Helmut Schlesinger that he saw no signs of the dollar weakening also helped underpin the dollar.

The Bundesbank and the U.S. Federal Reserve sold dollars Friday on the open market but the central bank intervention failed to halt the U.S. currency's New Year's rise.

"The question is how concerned are they to stop the dollar?" asked Urs Bollinger of Swiss Bank Corporation. He noted market confusion over the Bundesbank's policy towards the dollar.

Dealers were troubled by the apparent about-turn in Bundesbank policy signalled by Schlesinger Friday.

Delors stresses necessity for European central bank

PARIS (R) — Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, said Sunday that a West European central bank and monetary union were necessary but were a step beyond the European Community's (EC's) aims of a single market by 1992.

Delors, the chief architect and proponent of the Community's single market, also said monetary union would only be achieved if a common EC central banking system was autonomous from individual governments, like that of West Germany.

Speaking in a French television interview conducted in Madrid, Delors said: "Economic and monetary union is more than the common economic and social region seen for 1992. This is a reinforced cooperation. These are new institutions."

But he added: "Reinforced monetary cooperation is necessary. The common currency and the central bank are a further stage. The political decision (for

this) has not yet been taken." Creation of a European central bank and wider use of the Community's basket currency, the European Currency Unit (ECU), have been a subject of deep contention among the three largest EC nations, West Germany, France and Britain.

Many economists saw it as the number one stumbling block to 1992, with Bonn most concerned to see guarantees of autonomy for a common central bank and London wary of losing political sovereignty.

Paris, whose Bank of France is subservient to the finance ministry, has backed away from plans for providing the central bank with an autonomous statute and resisted German demands for autonomy for an EC central body.

The commission is responsible for the day-to-day administration of Community business and the executive body which proposes all new EC legislation.

OPEC and non-OPEC members to meet soon

CAIRO (AP) — Members and non-members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will meet at the expert level Jan. 26 in London to discuss ways of cooperating to stabilise the world oil market, OPEC's secretary-general said Monday.

Indonesia's Dr. Subroto also said that OPEC had no confirmation of published reports that the United Arab Emirates was exceeding its production quota, agreed upon at an OPEC meeting last November.

Subroto spoke to reporters after meeting with Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil.

The Indonesian minister, who arrived in Cairo Sunday night, is touring non-OPEC oil-producing countries, and already has visited Colombia and Mexico. He is to depart Wednesday for Oman.

"I am also here to discuss the situation in the oil market and what OPEC and non-OPEC (na-

tions) can do together," Subroto said of his talks with Kandil. "We are confident, both of us, that cooperation of OPEC and non-OPEC producers will have a positive effect on the market and it is our intention to do something concrete on this respect."

Subroto and Kandil said that non-OPEC oil-producing countries will hold a meeting of their own in London Jan. 25 at Oman's request. Then, experts from OPEC and non-OPEC countries would meet Jan. 26 to prepare the ground for a similar meeting at ministerial level later.

"We discussed cooperation and what we shall do together to bring stability in the oil market," Subroto said. "Certainly one aspect of that cooperation is how to influence supply, and OPEC has done its part already by the November agreement to reduce production and I think it is now time that non-OPEC producers will also contribute."

Kandil however, ruled out any further reduction of Egypt's production. He said that since October 1984, Egypt had reduced its daily output to between 870,000 and 900,000 barrels in support of OPEC policies.

U.N. chief eyes arms tax to fund peace-keepers

OSLO (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar suggested Monday that peace-keeping forces could be funded through a levy on the international arms trade.

In a lecture in Oslo marking the award of last year's Nobel Peace Prize to the U.N. peace-keepers, Perez de Cuellar criticised countries that had not kept up payments to the organisation.

"The present uncertain situation about financing is deplorable... if governments decide that

the financial burden is too heavy for them to bear alone, other means of financing may have to be considered," he said.

"In some cases, those who benefit financially from the results of a peace-making and peace-keeping operation might be asked to share in the costs," he told several hundred dignitaries gathered in the great hall of Oslo University.

"A more far-reaching idea has been floated, embracing the concept of using some of the profits

of war to pay for peace through an appropriate international levy on all overseas arms sales," he said.

"As long as... the arms trade continues, we would at least be robbing war to pay for peace," he noted.

Perez de Cuellar said it was ironic that \$1.5 billion, expected to be the cost of peace-keeping operations this year, was almost exactly one per cent of what he said was the value of the world's official arms export in 1987 —

\$164 billion.

Earlier, he told a news conference that the United States was the chief offender in failing to keep up with payments to the United Nations. The Soviet Union also owed substantial sums, he said, but had agreed on a timetable for payment.

Peacekeeping arrears are estimated at more than \$350 million. More than 10,000 troops from 35 countries serve with peace-keeping forces, many of them based in the Middle East.

Qatar awards \$400m loan pact for big gas project

BAHRAIN (R) — Qatar has awarded the mandate for a \$400 million loan to fund development of its vast North Field gas reservoir to a group of nine banks, the Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank (GIB) said Monday.

The bank said in a statement GIB, the Bahrain-based Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation (APICORP) and the Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) were included in the three-year loan facility for Qatar General Petroleum Corp.

(QGPC). Banking sources said the loan, priced at 22.5 basis points above the London inter bank offered rate (LIBOR) was divided equally at \$44 million each among all the banks.

The syndication would begin Jan. 11 and another participant, Britain's National Westminster Bank Plc, would sell the deal on the market, the bankers said.

QGPC is expected to sign the loan in March.

Other banks included in the package are Japan's Bank of Tokyo Ltd, Mitsubishi Bank Limited, Chase Investment Bank Limited, Qatar National Bank and the Jeddah-based Riyad Bank.

Work on then first stage of the project, which will tap a 350 trillion cubic feet reservoir of gas lying beneath shallow Gulf waters 50 miles off Qatar, began in mid-1987.

OGPC officials say 800 million cubic feet a day of natural gas will be produced for local use when the first phase is complete in 25 months.

Qatar has allocated funds from the sale of 40,000 barrels per day of its crude production for the project and has so far financed work with its own money.

Under the projected second phase, Qatar hopes to sell gas to neighbouring Gulf states. It eventually hopes to export gas to Japan and Europe.

Hungary announces price hikes on many products

BUDAPEST (AP) — The Hungarian government Sunday announced a series of sweeping price hikes the official trade union leadership has warned may spawn strikes unless swift wage and social reforms are enacted.

The price increases will cost every consumer an average 800 forints, or \$25 per month, a figure amounting to about ten per cent of the average national per capita earnings per month.

As of Monday, dairy products increased by 40 per cent, pharmaceuticals 82 per cent, although drugs for treating serious diseases will be decreased or become free, said state secretary Bela Szikszay, president of the National Price Office.

He told the Vasarnapi Hírek Sunday newspaper that car prices are to increase by between 13 and 38 per cent.

A Hungarian government announcement quoted by the state news agency MTI later detailed more price rises.

It said prices of beef increased by 30 per cent, while pork, poultry and meat preparations will increase by 13-14 per cent.

Lard, vegetable oil, margarine, flour and bakery products increased by 15-16 per cent.

The president of the Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions (SZOT) warned Friday that what will amount to four waves of price rises in the first half of this year could touch off strikes unless wage hikes and other social measures are introduced.

According to the trade union daily Nepszava, the SZOT leadership demanded that funds set free by cutting state subsidies should not only be used to reduce the budget deficit but to support those hardest hit.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank require from debtor governments to slash price subsidies from the government budget as a condition for obtaining credits or debt res-

cheduling arrangements.

Hungary's foreign debt is said to total about \$17 billion. Last year the Warsaw Pact country spent over \$3 billion on servicing its debt, including \$1 billion on interest repayment.

Szikszay was reported as saying that food prices would go up by an average 16-17 per cent, with sugar prices moving up by an as yet unspecified margin.

Road haulage charges also increased as of Jan. 9.

As of Feb. 1, public transportation costs are to rise by an average 62 per cent, while in Budapest city transit soars by 90 per cent.

In addition, as of March 1, household water and sewage fees are scheduled to increase by no less than 220-290 per cent, and they are the most controversial hikes judging by a protest published in advance of the government announcement.

Top Grindlays official to visit Jordan

AMMAN — Mr. Ray Barnes, regional director of the Middle East, will arrive in Amman Saturday, Jan. 14, 1989, for a week-long business visit.

During the visit, he will be discussing business and prospects for 1989 with Mr. Alan Cooper, the general manager and his team

at Grindlays.

Meetings are also planned with the minister of finance, the governor of the central bank, the deputy governor and Mr. Abdul Majeed Shoman, chairman and general manager of Arab Bank Ltd.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, Jan. 9, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	481.0	483.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	381.7	382.6
Pound Sterling	858.1	862.4	Dutch guilder	235.4	236.6
Deutschmark	265.8	267.1	Swedish crown	77.4	77.8
Swiss franc	311.9	313.5	Italian lira (for 100)	36.2	36.4
French franc	77.9	78.3	Belgian franc (for 10)	129.8	127.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7638/48	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1960/70	Canadian dollar	
	1.8290/8300	Deutschmarks	
	2.0650/60	Dutch guilders	
	1.5595/5605	Swiss francs	
	38.33/36	Belgian francs	
	6.2350/2400	French francs	
	1341/1342	Italian lire	
	126.60/70	Japanese yen	
	6.2600/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.6870/6920	Norwegian crowns	
	7.0590/0640	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	405.30/405.80	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Institutional trading dominated a share market buoyed by economic optimism overseas. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 9.8 at 1,488.2.

TOKYO — Prices soared to close at a record high in heavy trading, surprising investors who expected a downturn and self-restraint on the first business day since Emperor Hirohito's death Saturday. The Nikkei Index rose 468.85 to 30,678.39.

HONG KONG — Mild profit-taking in the afternoon depressed prices slightly but the Hang Seng Index rose 25.62 to close at 2,792.27, a post-crash high.

SINGAPORE — Prices rose sharply across the board in active trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 29.65 to 1,072.99, its highest level since Aug. 25.

BOMBAY — Prices rebounded sharply to close with big gains after the exchange authorities halved purchase margins and raised sales margins by a half.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed just above their lows as profit-taking whittled away sharp gains at the start of the session. The Dax Index rose 6.57 to 1,366.55.

ZURICH — Prices closed slightly firmer across the board in moderate trading. The Swiss Index rose 2.5 to 964.9.

PARIS — Shares mostly held or extended opening gains but a drop in luxury goods group LVMH helped keep the 50-share bourse indicator in a limited range.

LONDON — Shares were steady but off their highs in afternoon business after profit-taking and a Jackluster early showing on Wall Street. The FTSE 100 at 1546 GMT was 20.4 at 1,831.7.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed a small overall gain by mid-morning but blue chips were almost unchanged. The Dow was little changed at 2,194.



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Schneider keeps winning

ZURICH (R) — Swiss double Olympic champion Vreni Schneider, winner of an unprecedented eight successive technical events in the women's World Cup season so far, regards skiing as a hobby and fights shy of her new superstar image.

The 24-year-old daughter of a shoemaker from Elm, a hamlet in the mountains of Glarus east of Zurich, preserved her unbeaten slalom and giant slalom record Sunday when she completed a rare treble by winning a slalom in Melbach, Austria.

Schneider had already overhauled the prestigious mark for a winning sequence in technical events set by former team-mate Erika Hess, winner of six slaloms in a row in 1981, with her second giant slalom win in two days Saturday.

Apart from four special and four giant slaloms, she has also won a combination this season for a total of nine wins, leaving only Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell's record of 11 in 1973 to aim at.

The modest Schneider, who was almost forced to give up skiing when her mother's death from cancer in 1980 left her in charge of a young family, is amazed at the stir her winning run has caused.

"I train hard and I enjoy skiing and racing," she said. "Competition is still fun for me, it's a hobby, not a job."

With a total of 22 victories, Schneider lies sixth in the ranks of the all-time greats of women's World Cup history.

Hess, who retired in 1987 to get married, won 31 World Cup events in her 10-year career and Moser-Proell, the Austrian su-

perstar who retired in 1980 at the age of 27 after her Olympic downhill triumph, won 62 events in 12 years on the circuit.

Schneider has raced regularly in the World Cup since December 1984 and celebrated her first win in only her fourth race.

In 1987 she grabbed her first gold medal in the world championship giant slalom at Crans-Montana and in 1988 she became skiing's fifth double Olympic champion when she clinched the slalom and giant slalom titles in Calgary.

A serious crash in the Aspen downhill last March in which she tore knee ligaments prevented her from winning her first overall title last season. But this year she already has almost twice as many World Cup points as her nearest rival, Austrian Ulrike Maier.

The world championships opening in Vail, Colorado, at the end of this month could yield yet another record.

"Vreneli," as the Swiss call her, will be bidding for four titles, slalom, giant slalom, super-giant slalom and combined. No women's skier has won more than three at the same championships.

Schneider, whose favourite pastimes are listening to Swiss country music and long mountain hikes, is almost embarrassed by the image of her as a sports star in some Swiss newspapers.

She feels she gets too much credit for her successes but trainer Jan Tischhauser is constantly impressed by her dedication.

"When she competes, she is not afraid of losing, she just tries her best to be as fast as possible. She accepts very well the fact that another racer can be faster than her," he said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

African World Cup qualifiers

PARIS (AP) — The Ivory Coast, Morocco and Zaire posted victories Sunday in African group World Cup elimination matches in early competition to decide the continent's qualifiers. The Ivory Coast beat Libya, 1-0, with the help of a goal by Sekou Bamba in the 79th minute at Abidjan in a group A contest. Algeria also has a victory in the four-country group, beating Zimbabwe, 3-0, Friday at Annaba. Morocco edged Zambia, 1-0, at Rabat on a goal by Fes Fattah in the 39th minute in a group D encounter. Also in a group D match, Zaire blasted Tunisia, 3-1, with striker Kabongo Ngoy scoring two goals in front of 90,000 fans at the 20th of May stadium in Kinshasa.

Robson out of hospital

LONDON (R) — England and Manchester United soccer captain Bryan Robson was discharged from hospital Monday after being knocked unconscious in the Football Association (F.A.) Cup match against Queen's Park Rangers Saturday. Robson was concussed and swallowed his tongue after a collision with a defender in the 89th minute of the goalless third round tie. He was taken to hospital for x-rays on head and shoulder injuries. The tests showed no broken bones. United manager Alex Ferguson said: "There is no problem with his shoulder but he has some chest bruising. It's just a matter of resting him now. 'We shall take advice to make certain he is okay after the concussion and shock of swallowing his tongue.' Robson is out of Wednesday's replay but may be fit for Saturday's league match against Millwall.

Bills beat themselves up

CINCINNATI (R) — The Buffalo Bills, reeling from a defeat to the Cincinnati Bengals that kept them out of the Super Bowl, brawled among themselves following the American Football Conference (AFC) final Sunday. The Bills' bickering turned physical after offensive tackle Joe Devlin cursed at cornerback Derrick Burroughs, who had been ejected from the game after committing a costly penalty that led to Cincinnati's last touchdown. Devlin rushed at Burroughs and was physically restrained by defensive back Errol Tucker. Other members of the team joined in the pushing, shoving and cursing and the room was cleared of all media less than five minutes after the game.

Worldbeating water polo coach resigns

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav water polo coach Ratko Rudic, who has led the national team to two Olympic titles and a world championship in the past five years, has resigned. "I'm tired of my highly-stressed life as national team coach," Rudic told Reuters Monday. "I want to rest a bit and maybe in the future I shall come back." Rudic, 40, led Yugoslavia to Olympic gold in Los Angeles in 1984 and Seoul in 1988 and the world title in Madrid in 1986. He was capped 290 times as a player in the 1970s and became national coach in 1984. Rudic said he planned to return to coach Partizan Belgrade, 16 times national champions and the club he played for before becoming a coach.

Coe makes British team for Europe

LONDON (R) — Twice Olympic 1,500 metres champion Sebastian Coe, omitted from the British team for last year's Seoul Olympics, has been selected to run in the European Indoor Athletics Championships in the Hague, Netherlands, on Feb. 18-19. Coe, 32, is among 13 British athletes pre-selected for the championships along with Olympic silver medalists Linford Christie and Colin Jackson. He will compete in the 800 metres, the distance at which he still holds the world outdoor record. Coe, Olympic 1,500 metres gold medalist in 1980 and 1984 and European 800 metres champion, plans one further year on the grand prix circuit before retiring to concentrate on a career in politics. Christie, second in the Seoul 100 metres, will take part in the 60 and 200 metres while Jackson will team up with fellow Olympic finalist Tony Jarrett in the high hurdles.

Giant-killing Sutton drawn against Norwich

LONDON (R) — Minor-league Sutton United were handed a second F.A. cup giant-killing chance Monday when they were drawn against high-flying first division side Norwich city in the fourth round. Sutton, whose 2-1 home win over 1987 cup winners Coventry proved the sensation of Saturday's third round, travel to Norwich's Carrow road home for the Jan. 28 tie. Holders Wimbledon visit Aston Villa and favourites Liverpool go to Millwall in two all-first division confrontations. Sutton manager Barrie Williams was delighted with the draw, which pitched his side of part-timers against the club that led the first division for more than three months until New Year's Eve. "The fantasy continues," he said. "We always said the F.A. Cup was unreal but this is going beyond the realms of possibility. 'We regard it as an experience that we look forward to once again. It is just part and parcel of everyday life now. There is a little touch of unreality about it but that is what the cup is always about.'"

Home is sweet for Knicks and LA Lakers

NEW YORK (AP) — "Home sweet home" is an adage the New York Knicks and the Los Angeles Lakers can really get into.

In the only National Basketball Association games Sunday, the Knicks walloped the Los Angeles Clippers 134-100 for their 11th straight victory at Madison Square Garden in New York. And the Lakers pounded the San Antonio Spurs 126-96 at the forum in Los Angeles, where they are 13-0 and the only team still unbeaten at home this season.

New York, which now is 14-1 at home, with the one loss coming at the hands of the Lakers, had lost its previous two games.

"We have it in our mind that we don't want to lose another game at home the rest of the year," Johnny Newman said.

Newman, breaking out of an eight-game scoring slump, hit for 22 of his points in the Knicks' 80-point second half as New York turned a six-point halftime lead into a blowout.

The Lakers, who also have struggled on the road this season — with a 9-11 record and seven straight losses — got 16 points, 17 assists and eight rebounds from Magic Johnson against the Spurs to keep their home record perfect.

The Lakers will carry a seven-game road losing streak — their longest since an eight-game slide in 1975 — to Sacramento on Tuesday night.

"Somewhere, this has to stop," Los Angeles coach Pat Riley said. "We've had some bad breaks on the road, but we don't want to have all that hanging over our heads when we go to Sacramento."

European soccer

Napoli, Juventus boost challenge to Internazionale

ROME (R) — Juventus and Napoli both won away in the Italian first division Sunday to confirm themselves as the chief challengers to leaders Internazionale Milan.

While Inter were maintaining their three-point lead at the top with a 1-0 home victory over struggling Bologna, Juventus won 3-1 at Roma and Napoli 1-0 at Torino.

Italian International Aldo Serena hit Inter's winner against Bologna in the 72nd minute.

Veteran striker Alessandro Altobelli gave Juventus an early lead at Roma when he converted a cross from Portuguese midfielder Rui Barros, but had to leave the pitch immediately afterwards after apparently twisting his ankle.

Both sides were in attacking mood and there were several near misses by Roma's West German international striker Rudi Voeller, who hit the crossbar during the second half, and Juventus' Soviet midfielder Alexander Zavarov.

Zavarov was taken off 15 minutes from time by Danish international forward Michael Laudrup, who immediately set up Barros for Juventus' second.

Both teams scored from penalties in the final minutes. Italian international midfielder Giuseppe Giannini converting for Roma after Barros fouled Voeller and Antonio Cabrini for Juventus.

Napoli had to fight to earn their victory at Torino, who defended with great spirit despite being reduced to 10 men when Silvano Benedetti was sent off in the first half.

Brazilian striker Careca scored the winner from a cross by midfielder Luca Fusi in the 30th minute.

Champions AC Milan continued their disappointing form, losing away to Cesena 1-0 on a cold day and a slightly foggy pitch. Swedish winger Hans Holmquist put away the winner in the 66th minute from a cross by Massimo Agostini.

Dutch striker Ruud Gullit, who has spent much of this season off the field with an ankle injury, had several chances in the second half but failed to finish.

Milan now lie 10 points behind the leaders in seventh place and their chances of catching up seem ever more remote.

Newly-promoted Atalanta continued their excellent run, holding on to 1-0 lead over Sampdoria until the last minute of the match when Gianluca Vialli equalised.

There was a fine performance too from Fiorentina, who beat Lazio 3-0. Roberto Baggio set up the first goal from a corner and scored the third a minute from the end.

The result will be a relief to Fiorentina's manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, who has faced mounting criticism from fans and club officials because of his side's patchy showing in the last few weeks.

Mexican international Hugo Sanchez struck twice in the last two minutes to give Spanish soccer league leaders Real Madrid a 4-2 home victory over plucky Elche, Sunday.

Sanchez, until then unable to escape defender Javi Rey's man-to-man marking, scored both goals by running on to passes from midfielder Sebastian Losada, who went on late in the game.

Bottom-of-the-table Elche stunned an over confident Real, who had been treating the match with about as much urgency as a training session, when their striker Claudio Barragan shot them ahead after half an hour.

Emilio Butragueno put Real level 15 minutes from the interval, flicking the ball from close range past Elche goalkeeper Jose Puentes, but the visitors were not finished yet.

Benito Sanchez made it 2-1 for Elche with a header only minutes later but could not stop Real midfielder Martin Vazquez equalising.

Real coach Leo Beenhakker, sensing that victory was in sight, pulled off veteran back Jose Camacho and midfielder Michel and put two wingers in their place, Losada and Pato Llorente.

But Elche still looked like they might steal a point from the champions before Sanchez pounced.

Real stay two points clear of Barcelona, who defeated Cadiz 3-0 after a hesitant start.

Midfielder Eusebio Sacristan scored six minutes after the interval with a swerving shot from 30 metres. Julio Salinas hit the second and Jose Bakero completed the rout with another powerful curving shot 10 minutes from time.

Valencia moved third after holding Real Betis 0-0 while Sevilla slipped to fourth by losing 1-0 at Celta Saturday.

Atletico Madrid, coached by Britain's Ron Atkinson, had a frustrating day, drawing 1-1 at Real Murcia.

Their Brazilian star Baltazar De Moraes had a 14th minute penalty saved by Lorenzo Amador. Tomas Renones put Atletico ahead after the interval but Murcia's Salvador Mejias equalised six minutes later.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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DON'T FLOG A DEAD HORSE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 2
♥ A Q 3
♦ J 7 5
♣ K 8 6 4 3

WEST EAST
♠ 8 7 4 ♠ 5
♥ 10 8 6 5 ♥ K J 9 4
♦ K 10 9 2 ♦ 8 6 4 3
♣ 10 3 ♣ Q J 9 7

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9 6 3
♥ 7 2
♦ A 9
♣ A 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
5 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
There is sometimes an excuse for taking the second-best line. (You could be following a hunch.) To do so when you have been told that it is going to fail is the height of masochism.

North-South conducted an intelligent auction to reach a good slam. Once North could cue-bid hearts, South used Blackwood and settled in a small slam when he learned that two kings were missing.

In response to his partner's double of North's heart cue-bid, West led his fourth-best card in the suit. Declarer inserted the queen, East won and continued the suit to force out the ace. Now declarer had to hope that clubs were 3-3 and trumps 2-2, or that East held the king of diamonds. Neither expectation materialized, so declarer went down one trick.

Even had he not been warned that the king of hearts was offside, declarer had a better line available than a finesse. All he needed was a club break no worse than 4-2. To utilize the club suit, declarer needed two entries to dummy. To preserve the ace of hearts as an entry, declarer should play low from dummy to the first trick!

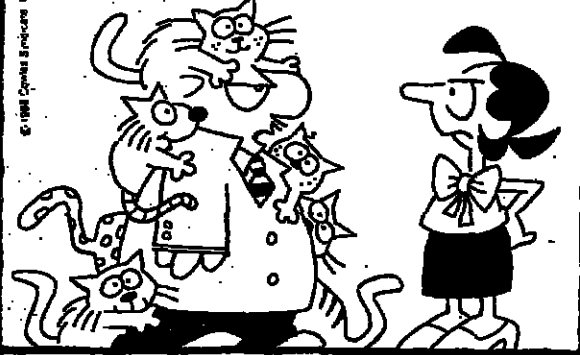
The best East can do is win the jack of hearts and shift to a diamond. Declarer counters by rising with the ace, cashing ace-king of clubs and ruffing a club high. After cashing the king of trumps and crossing to the ace, declarer ruffs another club high to set up a long club in dummy.

After drawing the last trump, declarer crosses to the ace of hearts and discards his losing diamond on the established club. Now that wasn't too difficult, was it?

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 12-26



"You know that after-shave lotion you gave me for Christmas? To be honest, I think it smells like cat food."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LASIE
CHACO
GERROF
SUREDS

There'll be others who will have the real power. WHAT THAT MATH WHIZ WHO ROSE TO THE TOP OF THE FIRM ENDED UP AS.

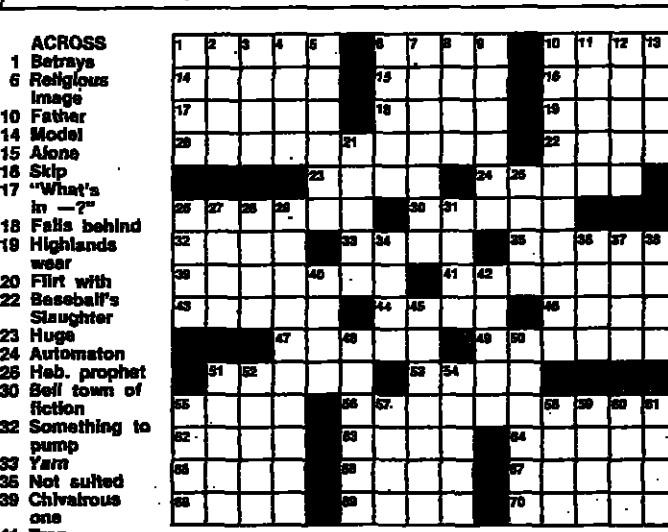
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: THINK VIKEN MYSELF SAFARI
Answer: What the fishermen's gross income was — SAME AS HIS NET

HOROSCOPE
NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by C. F. Murray



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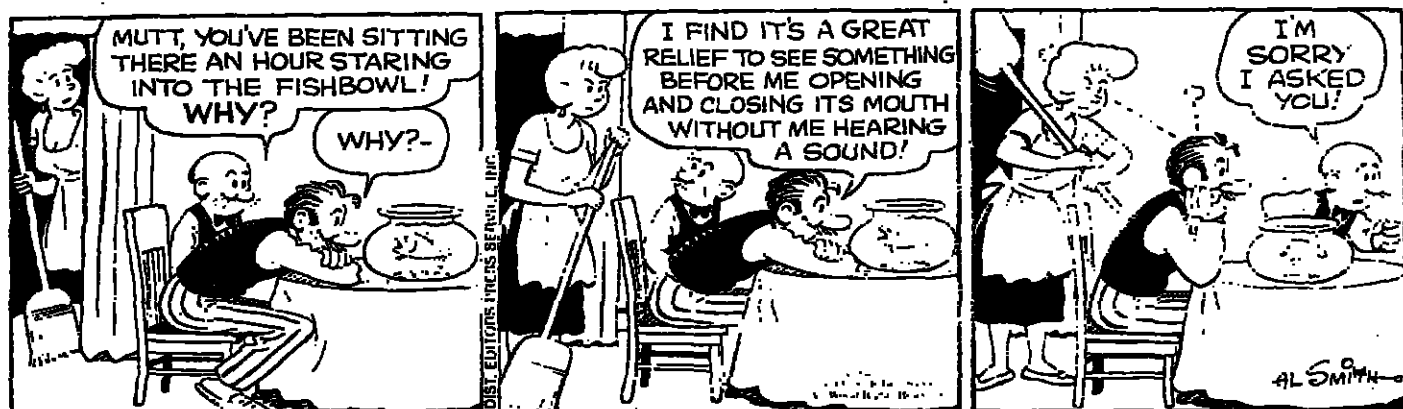
ACROSS
1 Betrays
6 Religious image
10 Father
14 Model
15 Alone
16 Ship
17 "What's in —?"
18 Falls behind
19 Highlands water
20 Flirt with
22 Baseball's slugger
23 Huge
24 Automobile
26 Hab. prophet
30 Self town of fiction
32 Something to pump
39 Farm
36 Not suited
39 Chivalrous one
41 Trap
43 Incline
44 Vortex
45 First place
47 Resident of Ark
48 Most recent
51 Moves slowly
53 Power source
56 Word of sorrow
58 Risky purchase
62 Fruit
63 Ration of —
64 Of an area
65 Marine's greeting
68 Close
69 Upper crust
69 Frank Herbert novel
69 Spade and sword
70 Gift getter

DOWN
1 Where Anna went
2 Father
3 News source?
4 Type of excuse
5 Sheath
6 Cays
7 Of the shore
8 Russ. saint
9 Cosa —
10 Pioneer
11 Acid type
12 Prototype TV show
13 Lawyers' abbr.
21 WWI conference site
25 Burden
26 Quarters
27 Russ. sea
28 — contenders
29 No way!
31 Fast
34 Yemen port
36 Grow dim
37 Fills
38 Escamp
40 At this place
42 Horse material
43 Cheat
46 Poplar
50 "Surprised"
51 Yala
52 Nunyon
54 Series of rows
55 "When I was —"
57 Virginia willow
58 Chukkar game
59 Getting —
60 A Jackson
61 Robt. —

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Communist rebels consider peace talks

Philippine renegade on the run

ZAMBOANGA CITY (AP) — President Corazon Aquino said Monday the leader of rebel Muslim police who seized a military garrison and killed a general may have escaped.

A woman also claimed the renegade leader, patrolman Rizal Alih, held her and eight companions hostage briefly Sunday, one day after troops recaptured the regional headquarters of the Philippine constabulary. But a military spokesman disputed the woman's claim.

At least 21 people were killed before government troops, backed by helicopter gunships and tanks, recaptured the garrison late Saturday after two days of fighting.

On Monday, officials said they had identified the bodies of Brigadier-General Eduardo Batalla and Colonel Romeo Abenda, who were held hostage during the takeover. Seven others also had been identified, but none was Alih.

"From the facts so far available, the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) is unable to say that Alih may be among those casualties," Aquino told reporters in Manila. "It has ordered an all-out search for those who may have escaped through the cordon."

The military launched attacks

Friday after learning that Batalla and Abenda had been slain by their captors. No prisoners were taken, the military said.

Rose Laurente, a major's wife, said Alih and four of his men commandeered her vehicle early Sunday, forced her and eight companions to drive into town and then left them unharmed.

But military spokesman Lt. Col Anthony Elias disputed the claim and said the woman's husband, Major Romeo Laurente, was business partner of Alih.

"We do not buy that story because we have no proof that he escaped," Elias said. "The reason why so many people here want to make you believe that Alih is alive is so that his syndicate of extortion, which is widespread, can still be continued by some of his men."

Military authorities imposed an indefinite nighttime curfew in Zamboanga, which has a mixed Christian-Muslim population. There are about five million Muslims among the Philippines' 59 million people.

Alih was acquitted in the November 1984 slaying of Mayor

Cesar Climaco. But three weeks after Climaco's death, seven people were killed when marines raided Alih's home, and he still faced murder charges in those deaths.

Last month, Batalla received permission to arrest Alih. Military officials also claim Alih was ringleader of an extortion gang.

On Sunday, Aquino warned that police corruption was undermining respect for law and order.

Zain Jali, spiritual adviser of the Muslim rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), warned the siege and subsequent fighting may inflame sectarian tension.

"The line seems to be since a general was killed, there is now justification to kill all Muslims," Jali told the Philippine Daily Globe.

The front is the largest of three groups that have been waging a nearly 20-year-old struggle for an independent Islamic state in the south. This month, congress is to debate a bill to grant self-rule to Muslim areas in the south.

In Manila, Aquino said widespread corruption among the nation's police was undermining respect for law and order.

"It is said that the citizen's respect for the law depends to a great degree on the perceived credibility of lawmen," she said

in her weekly radio broadcast Sunday. "All measures shall be taken to uphold the rule of law and improve law enforcement."

Peace talks

Communist rebels raised the possibility of new peace talks with Aquino's government nearly two years after the first round of negotiations collapsed.

The offer was made in an editorial in the December issue of Liberation, published by the outlawed National Democratic Front (NDF). Copies of the publication were made available to news organizations Monday.

In the editorial, the front said the government's "total war" against the unjust war against the masses of our people must be defeated. It accused the government of "wanton destruction of lives and property all over the country."

"Conscious of the heavy sacrifices borne by the people as a result of this 'total war' policy, the NDF declares its willingness to again explore with all sincerely interested parties the possibility of a comprehensive settlement of the political, economic, social and military issues underlying the armed conflict," it said.



CATCH THEM YOUNG — Two-year-old lion tamer Mitch Perry, a fourth-generation member of his family's renowned Perry Brothers circus, works with lions during a show.

Perry is said to be the world's youngest lion tamer and is more afraid of the family dog than entering the lion's den.

First Cubans leave Angola

LUANDA (R) — The first contingent of Cuban soldiers to withdraw from Angola will receive a ceremonial send-off in Luanda today. 13 years after Havana first sent troops to help fight off a South African invasion.

In what Angola and Cuba describe as a goodwill gesture, 450 Cuban servicemen and women and due to fly out in three planes after taking part in a military parade in a Luanda square and marching through the streets.

The 450, some of whom were being decorated at a separate ceremony Monday, are part of a group of 3,000 troops that Cuba has agreed to pull out of Angola by April 1.

The remainder of the 50,000 Cuban soldiers in Angola will be withdrawn in stages by mid-1991 under the terms of peace accords signed by Angola, Cuba and South Africa in December which also include independence for South African-ruled Namibia.

Angola and Cuba are surrounding the departure of the

first contingent with pomp and ceremony and Havana has sent a high-level delegation including more than a dozen generals and colonels, many of whom have served in Angola.

"We are going home victorious so we are going home happy," Cuban General Raul Menendez Tomashevich told reporters.

Cuban commanders say that Cuban and Angolan military superiority, boosted by high morale and sophisticated Soviet arms, helped to force a South African withdrawal from Southern Angola late in 1988 and the subsequent peace accords.

Following today's flights out, another 1,000 Cubans are expected to leave Angola by ship in the next few days.

Details of Cuba's military strength and operations in Angola, which ranged from the defence of strategic oil and diamond installations to direct combat with South African units, have usually remained closely-guarded secrets.

Havana first sent regular troops to Angola in 1975 to help the newly-installed Marxist government repel a two-pronged invasion of South African forces from the south and western-backed rebels and mercenaries from the north.

But Cuba does not hide that Cuban instructors were already helping the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), currently in power, as early as 1966 in its independence war against Portuguese colonial rule.

The total Cuban withdrawal over 27 months, which will coincide with a Namibian independence plan due to begin on April 1, will be monitored by a United Nations verification team (UN-AVEM) headed by Brazilian General Pericles Ferreira Gomes.

Angola has asked the U.N. to cover the estimated \$800 million cost of the Cuban pullout and U.N. officials are studying ways of collecting the funds.

Bandaranaike seeks to annul election

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan opposition leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who lost last month's presidential poll, Monday filed a petition in the supreme court seeking to annul the victory of Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Bandaranaike, leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, cited general intimidation, non-compliance with election laws and failure by election officials to conduct a fair and free poll as reasons for declaring void the

result of the election.

Premadasa, the incumbent prime minister, won the Dec. 19 poll with 50.43 per cent of the votes against Bandaranaike's 44.95 per cent.

Voting was marred by killings of two senior election officials and supporters of political parties and attacks on polling centres.

Officials said only 55 per cent of the 9.4 million voters cast their ballots because the Marxist People's Liberation Front had

threatened to kill those who voted.

There has been a voter turnout of more than 75 per cent at previous elections, they said.

Police blamed the polling day attacks on the front, a southern-based group of young radical Sinhalese trying to overthrow the government.

Bandaranaike, who is also contesting Feb. 15 parliamentary election, said in a 38-page petition that a majority of voters

were or may have been prevented from electing the candidate they preferred.

Her petition gave details of nearly 100 instances of alleged violations of election laws.

No date has been set for the inquiry.

The opposition leader said before the election that Premadasa would benefit from a low poll, particularly in the South where Bandaranaike enjoys wide support.

Politburo to discuss ethnic unrest

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has signalled frustration with ethnic unrest in Armenia and Azerbaijan and said a Politburo commission will meet this week to resolve the problem.

Gorbachev said the meeting of Politburo members and Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives Wednesday would "wrap up the discussion of this sore point."

General Vyacheslav Pankin, head of the Soviet Interior Ministry's Criminal Investigation Department, said in Saturday's Pravda newspaper that 43 people died and hundreds were injured in violence in the two southern republics in November and December.

This was almost half as many again as previously estimated and brought to at least 78 the toll from 10 months of violence over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mainly by Armenians but administered by Azerbaijan.

The Kremlin last July rejected Armenia's demands for the territory to be transferred to it but formed a commission and sent a special envoy, Arkady Volysky, to the area to try to find a solution.

Volysky appeared to have made little headway when violence flared again in November. Large areas of Armenia and Azerbaijan were placed under military administration as thousands of refugees fled their homes.

The unrest also affected other areas of the Soviet Union, including the three Baltic republics.

Speaking more broadly about the unrest Gorbachev told a

meeting Friday of the nation's scientific and cultural leaders that confrontation and nationalist appeals could undermine his Perestroika reform programme. His remarks were published Sunday in the central media.

"Everything that leads to the confrontation of nations and peoples — the fanning of nationalist passions, appeals for national isolationism and exclusivity, not to mention extremist calls and slogans — all this is unacceptable."

"If this should spread, it would cause enormous damage to our general cause," Gorbachev said.

The Politburo's work on the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict was interrupted by the Dec. 7 earthquake in Armenia and must now be concluded, Gorbachev said.

The Communist leadership had no intention of allowing the Soviet Union's many nationalities to be more than 100 — to lose their cultural identity, he said.

A summer party plenum would reform the relationships between the Kremlin and the 15 Soviet republics by increasing the republics' self-reliance.

But he warned against individual peoples declaring special status for themselves and stressed the Kremlin would not give up its role as the leader in policy-making for the entire country.

"We need a strong centre," Gorbachev said. "This is dictated by the nature of our economy and the federal nature of our government... without a strong centre this would take on an unwanted character and would simply be impossible."

Seoul opposition accelerates campaign

SEOUL (AP) — Opposition leader Kim Young-Sam said Monday President Roh Tae-Woo must remove and put on trial senior officials who played key roles in the authoritarian government of former President Chun Doo-Hwan.

Kim, leader of the Reunification Democratic Party, said South Korea would face renewed political instability if the government failed to expose and bring to justice all those involved in corruption and human rights abuses under Chun.

"We need stability. Stability can only be realised through liquidation of past misdeeds," Kim said in an interview with the Associated Press.

The opposition leader also said Roh must keep a promise to hold a referendum giving voters the chance to evaluate his performance. Roh made the promise just before the December 1987 presidential elections.

"This is the promise he made to the people," Kim said.

Kim said the nation would not wait indefinitely for a referendum, but he declined to set time limits for holding the measure. He also declined to comment on

whether he thought Roh could win such a referendum.

The government's Democratic Justice Party has said a decision will be made in the next few months on holding the referendum. Government officials say they are confident Roh would win a majority.

Roh, a former general, defeated Kim Young-Sam and rival opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung in presidential elections in December 1987 because the two Kim split the opposition vote.

In the interview Monday, Kim cast doubt on Roh's willingness to expose and punish corruption and human rights abuses under Chun's rule. He said top Chun aides remained in the South Korean government and ruling party. Kim said they must be expelled and put on trial.

He also insisted that former President Chun be made to testify in the national assembly investigation of misdeeds under his government. But Kim said he opposes jailing Chun because he was once president.

Chun, a former general who took power with military backing in 1980, went into rural exile in November.



Queen Elizabeth

A royal dilemma over Hirohito's death

LONDON (AP) — The death of Emperor Hirohito of Japan engulfed Britain's royal family in a front-page newspaper debate Sunday about whether this country should send representatives to his funeral.

Many opposition lawmakers and World War II veterans still regard Hirohito, who died Saturday at age 87, as an unpunished war criminal, and warned it would be an insult to thousands of British servicemen if official representatives

were sent.

Some 27,000 British prisoners of war died at the hands of the Japanese in World War II, many of them in the forced construction of the notorious Burma railway.

Both Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Queen Elizabeth II sent condolence messages Saturday making no mention of the wartime enmity, and both were expected to send representatives to his Feb. 24 funeral.

The queen does not attend funerals of foreign heads of state, and the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) reported Sunday that she had asked her son and heir, Prince Charles, to go in her place.

The royal family is already under public criticism for failing to send a member to last week's memorial service in Lockerbie, Scotland, for victims of the Dec. 21 crash of Pan Am Flight 103.

"I think we'd be dis-

appointed if anybody goes out there (to Japan)," said Jim Campbell, chairman of the Mid-Annapolis Comrades Club.

"If it wasn't good enough for them to come to the Lockerbie service, I don't see why they should go all that distance out there for a service for somebody that treated our servicemen when they were prisoners-of-war in such a way that people suffered for years."

Ghana's envoy calls for student's release

PEKING (AP) — The acting head of the Ghana embassy called on China Monday to release a Ghanaian student arrested in Nanking in connection with a Christmas Eve brawl.

"We are not satisfied the case has not been handled properly," said Kwadwo Kwakye. "We want (him) to be released."

Alex Dosoo of Ghana, a student at Hehai university in the eastern city of Nanking, was arrested Dec. 31 and charged with beating and seriously injuring a Hehai employee.

Police gave two other African students — one from Gambia and one from Benin — 15 days "disciplinary detention" as punishment for allegedly having "tried to stir up trouble" during the Christmas Eve fight.

The clash between African students and Chinese school workers and students began when the Africans refused to register Chinese women they were escorting to a Hehai dance. It triggered nearly a week of street protests by Chinese who called the Africans "black devils" and demanded they be punished.

Kwakye said the fight "happened on a campus and should have been handled by the university and not handed over to the police." He said he did not think Dosoo should face criminal charges.

He said authorities had not told the embassy what the formal charge was or what punishment Dosoo might face if convicted.

"It was only after three days that the embassy was informed (of the arrest)," he said. "We have protested his detention and the fact that we were not notified."

Kwakye was among 11 diplomats from various African countries who went to Nanking over the weekend and met with Chinese authorities and African students there.

The official Xinhua news agency quoted the diplomats as saying they planned to advise their students to return to classes and obey the law. The approximately 140 African students in Nanking

have not attended classes since the clash, and most reportedly want to go home.

About 500 African students at the Peking Languages Institute have been boycotting classes since last Wednesday to protest charges by Chinese students that an African man assaulted a Chinese woman in her dormitory. The Africans say the story is a fabrication and demand an apology.

The boycotting students in Peking also say they want authorities to guarantee their safety, and to release the three Africans jailed in Nanking. Many also have said they want to leave China.

Kwakye said he met with Ghanaian students Monday and told them "it was within their rights" to boycott, "but that they must be careful not to contravene the law."

Ghana is the only African country that has said it is considering bringing its students home. There are 26 Ghanians studying in China.

Change: Reagan dominator

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eight years have passed since Ronald Reagan arrived in Washington promising many things, but above all, change.

"We're going to make some changes, if for no other reason than that they have to be made," Reagan said on his first full day in the job of president. "The people are waiting for us to do it."

He exists this month, that promise kept. With his era over and his presidency a matter for the historians, what can be said of the rest of Reagan's promises? On what did he deliver, and on what did he fail?

There are plenty of partisan opinions. The Democrats even published a book cataloging their view of Reagan's broken promises four years ago, when he faced re-election.

Reagan swept Democrat Jimmy Carter from office in 1980 with a pledge to improve the economy at home and to improve America's standing abroad. Central to this goal was a trio of promises: he would cut taxes, build up the military, and balance the budget.

Reagan won from the Democratic Congress a 25-per cent reduction in federal income tax rates. He later engineered a broad rewrite of the tax laws that eliminated many deductions in exchange for reduced tax rates — all in the name of simplification.

Yet he supported tax increases too, and followed the 1981 tax cuts a year later with a \$98-billion tax increase.

The nation's military defenses grew with infusions of new money for sophisticated weapons systems.

It was a buildup, in fact, that leaves Reagan's successor with crushing demands for more money to continue — so much so that the ability to prune Defense Department wish lists was a central factor in President-elect George Bush's search for a defense secretary.

But it was the federal budget deficit where Reagan clearly failed: not only did it not go lower, it mushroomed. The nation, it turned out, could not generate growth as a result of the tax cuts sufficient to balance the budget. And there were no

budget cuts sufficient to do the job either.

Reagan's targets for a balanced federal budget kept getting put off. He never submitted a balanced budget to Congress, and the annual deficit grew to nearly \$200 billion a year before starting to head down in his last years.

Democrats love to point out that the nation's total debt under Reagan was more than that sustained under all the presidents before him. Federal debt was under a trillion dollars when he took office in 1981; today it is more than \$2.6 trillion.

But Reagan delivered on much of his economic promise. Inflation abated. After an early recession that helped bring spiralling prices from the economy, growth was steady. Indeed, peace and prosperity was a powerful argument for his vice president's campaign to succeed him last fall.

Reagan also came into office promising to prune the federal bureaucracy. His first official act was to impose a freeze on the hiring of most civilian federal employees. But the size of cabinet government grew.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Denktash makes new proposals

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash put forward new proposals Monday during U.N.-sponsored talks aimed at reunifying Cyprus in a federation. "In order to initiate a constructive dialogue on... (the federal constitution) two new papers are being submitted today as an extension of our... paper on the federal structure," Denktash said in a statement. He said one summarised the Turkish-Cypriot position on such a constitution and the other was a proposal for a federal executive along the lines of Switzerland. Denktash and President George Vassiliou, who talked for two hours Monday, are due to meet again on Jan. 16 in the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone running the breadth of Cyprus. The second round of talks is examining various options to reunite the Greek-Cypriot south and Turkish-Cypriot north. The island has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded the north after a brief coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta ruling in Athens. In 1983 Turkish Cypriots, who make up about 20 per cent of the population, proclaimed an independent northern state recognised only by Ankara. A Greek-Cypriot political source said: "I'm sure we will be presenting our own proposals in this new round of talks. But I don't know whether they will be written." He said the United Nations envisaged a very flexible process whereby each side put forward non-binding options.

Jailed dissident released in Shanghai

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese dissident who demonstrated for democracy in Shanghai and whose case was taken up by the U.S. congress was released from prison Monday, Yang Wei, a former student at the University of Arizona, was freed from Ti Lan Qiao prison in Shanghai shortly after 11 a.m. after serving one year of a two-year sentence. Fu Fenghao, an official at the Shanghai foreign affairs office, said the release came because Yang spent about a year in custody before being sentenced. In a telephone interview with the Associated Press, Yang said his first concern was the health of his father, who has cancer. Yang was sentenced in December 1987 for writing what Chinese authorities described as "demagogical propaganda for counterrevolutionary ends." He had been held without charge since January 1987 in connection with pro-democracy student demonstrations in Shanghai in the winter of 1986.

Thai foreign minister flies to Vietnam

BANGKOK (AP) — Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila left Monday for a four-day visit to Vietnam amid signs of improving relations between Southeast Asia's chief adversaries. The visit will be the first to Vietnam in 13 years by a Thai foreign minister. Siddhi, accompanied by a 70-member delegation, is to hold talks with his counterpart, Nguyen Co Thach. The two officials are expected to discuss the civil war in Cambodia. In response to written questions from Thailand's English-language newspaper, The Nation, Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi described Siddhi's visit as a "turning point" in Thai-Vietnamese relations.

W. German communist party set back

FRANKFURT (AP) — West Germany's tiny Communist party Sunday rejected calls for more Soviet-style reforms within its sagging ranks and elected traditionalists to top-level party posts. After casting secret ballots Saturday, party conference delegates ousted all reform-minded leaders from the party's 98-member governing board. On Saturday, delegates reelected the party's long-time chairman, 58-year-old Herbert Mies. The voting was held at Frankfurt's Congress Hall, where the Communists held a three-day party convention. The party currently has only 47,513 registered members, and its ranks have been shrinking over the past several years, in part due to ideological bickering.

COLUMN

Charles plays polo, conserves wildlife

FLORIDA (AP) — Great Britain's Prince Charles is to open a new polo club here next month and play in a charity match to benefit African wildlife. Charles is scheduled to play at the Windsor Polo and Beach Club to raise money for the Friends of Conservation for African Wildlife and the planned Environmental Learning Centre in Vero Beach, according to a spokesman for the Rolex Watch Company. On Feb. 19, Charles will play polo in Palm Beach. Princess Diana is not expected to accompany the prince, Valdez said.

Willie Nelson wins award

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Country music singer-songwriter Willie Nelson has named this year's recipient of the televised "American Music Awards" special award of merit for career achievement. Nelson has written hundreds of songs during his career, including such hits as "the red-headed stranger," "on the road again," and "mamas don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys." He has starred in several films for theatrical and television release, including "the red-headed stranger," "honeysuckle rose," and "the electric horseman." Nelson also has used his leverage inside the music industry to organize the farm aid concerts, drawing contributions to help needy family farms in the United States.

Selleck sues over 'Love Secrets'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A libel case brought by Tom Selleck's father will go to trial against a supermarket tabloid newspaper, which claimed Robert Selleck gave his son's "love secrets" to the publication, the California supreme court ruled. The court unanimously upheld a lower-court ruling reinstating Robert Selleck's libel lawsuit against Globe International and upholding his status as a private figure, which makes it easier to win a libel case. The lawsuit stems from a December 1982 issue of the Globe that carried the front-page headline, "Tom Selleck's love secrets — by his father." The story, on an inside page, was headlined, "Why Tom Selleck can never be a happy lover." It said Robert Selleck had described his son as shy and ill at ease with women, and quoted the elder Selleck as saying, "Tom's relationships with women in his life are always disappointing because he's just not the person they think he should be. He's shy and sensitive, not rough and rugged." In his lawsuit, Robert Selleck said he had a brief, innocuous conversation with the writer of the article, but denied saying anything about his son's relationships with women.

Stone returns to Manila

MANILA (AP) — Director Oliver Stone, who filmed his academy award winning movie "Platoon" in the Philippines, has returned to Manila to complete "Born on the Fourth of July" starring Tom Cruise. Stone told reporters he will finish the picture, which is about a young soldier crippled in the Vietnam war, in the northern Philippine city of Laoag. Although the scenes will supposedly take place in Mexico, Stone said he chose the Philippines because shooting there is cheaper and "Mexico does not have all the military equipment we need." The production crew will use helicopters rented from the Philippine air force, he said. Stone filmed "Platoon," a story of American infantrymen in Vietnam, in the Philippines in 1985.

Child actress correlates fame with drugs, alcohol

NEW YORK (AP) — Drew Barrymore, the lovable moppet of the movie "E.T.," says her descent into drug and alcohol abuse began with her rise in fame. "From the time I became famous in 'E.T.,' my life got really weird," Miss Barrymore said in a first-person account in the Jan. 16 issue of People magazine. Miss Barrymore, now 13, was released from her second stay at a drug-and-alcohol rehabilitation hospital shortly before Christmas. According to her account, she drank at the age of 9, smoked marijuana at 10 and snorted cocaine at 12. "It was frightening. I was this 7-year-old who was expected to be going on a mature 29," she said. "By the time I was 8½, I felt like I was some abnormal, crazy girl. I could walk up to the door of any nightclub, and they'd say, 'hi, you're that little girl, come in.'"